BIA declines Osage Minerals Council’s request to supervise its upcoming election

OMC meetings become heated as Councilwoman Cynthia Boone faces accusations of unethical conduct

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

The Bureau of Indian Affairs has declined to help the Osage Minerals Council in running their election in June.

In a letter faxed to OMC Chairman John Henry Mashunkashey Friday from acting BIA Director Michael R. Smith (see letter on page 4), Smith said that when the Osage Nation formed its own government in 2004 it superseded the election process found in the 1906 Act and the Code of Federal Regulations for the old Osage Tribal Council, something that some on the OMC maintain still exists. Smith also stated that the BIA will give technical assistance with the OMC election but only with the consent of Osage Nation Principal Chief Jim Gray.

“I think the letter that we got was more or less what I anticipated we would get, a turn-down on the initial help for the election,” Mashunkashey said in a phone interview from southern New Mexico Feb. 17. “Basically in the past the technical assistance they provided us with is people that help count the voters, fractional voters… that’s all we asked of them and I guess without the chief’s consent...”

See BIA DECLINES REQUEST—Continued on Page 4

Oberly resigns as Election Board Supervisor

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

Lisa Otipoby, a tribal judge and municipal judge from Ponca City, has replaced Sarah Oberly as Osage Nation Election Board Supervisor.

“My election experience is through the courts,” Otipoby said during the Feb. 10 meeting at the election board office in downtown Pawhuska. “I’ve seen how elections can be mishandled and can

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Health Benefit Card applications to be mailed out next week

Chief’s Office says the agreement has been reviewed and signed

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

Osages don’t have to wait any longer. The Health Benefit Card applications for the $500 debit card will be mailed out the week of Feb. 15.

“I am happy to report that the applications for the Osage Nation Limited Health Benefit Plan have been finalized and sent to the printer, and all the agreements submitted for our review have been signed,” said Matt McDonald, Executive Branch legal counsel. “We anticipate that the applications will be mailed out some time [the week of Feb. 15].”

All Osages over the age of 18 are eligible for the $500 health benefit card as long as they have an Osage Nation membership card, not to be confused with a CDIB card, which is a certificate of degree of Indian blood. All Osages under the age of 18 are eligible for a $500 reimbursement and won’t be receiving a card.

“All paper claims [for minors] will be on a reimbursement basis, to prevent fraud. What MAA wants to insure is that the funds are actually being used for the child,” said Hepsi Barnett, Executive Branch Chief of Staff. “In order to receive a reimbursement check the tribal member will submit documentation, the service provider, the amount paid and a description of services provided.”

Parents will be asked to provide documentation that reflects the expenses incurred were medical, McDonald said.

“Specifically, I was told that credit card statements or a copy of a check would not be sufficient,” McDonald. “However, most service providers should be able to issue a detailed statement of services that would satisfy these requirements.”

“In the case of vendors, a sales receipt will likely suffice, particularly if paired with verifying information such as a prescription slip,” McDonald said. “Once documentation has been received, reimbursement checks should arrive within 7-10 business days.”

The Osage News requested a copy of the contract between the Nation and MAA from the Chief’s Office Feb. 9 but has yet to hear a response.

Currently the Osage Nation has 18,149 active CDIB holders and 11,767 active membership card holders, according to the Nation’s CDIB office. Having a membership card gives a person access to all the benefits the Nation provides such as the $500 health benefit card and Osage Nation scholarships. A CDIB card is issued by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and states how much Osage blood a person has.

The applications will be mailed to the address that the Nation’s CDIB office has on file for each

Chief Gray’s Town Hall Series has some principal chief candidates calling foul

Candidates for the June election say Gray is getting an unfair advantage if running for re-election

By Shannon Shaw
Osage News

Some candidates for the Principal Chief race for the June 7 elections were surprised when current Principal Chief Jim Gray announced a Town Hall Series to

See TOWN HALL SERIES —Continued on Page 8

Osage Nation Principal Chief Jim Gray speaks at the Town Hall Series Feb. 16 at the Wah Zha Zhi Cultural Center in Pawhuska.
Health Expenses Eligibility Index

The following is what Osages are eligible for with their $500 health benefit card:

Eligible Medical Expenses
- Abdominal supports
- Acupuncture
- Air conditioner (when necessary for relief from difficulty in breathing)
- Alcoholism treatment
- Ambulance
- Anesthetist
- Arch supports
- Artificial limbs
- Autoette (when used for relief of sickness/disability)
- Birth Control Pills (by prescription)
- Blood tests
- Blood transfusions
- Braces
- Cardiographs
- Chiropractor
- Christian Science Practitioner
- Contact Lenses
- Contraceptive devices (by prescription)
- Convalescent home (for medical treatment only)
- Crutches
- Dental Treatment
- Dental X-rays
- Dentures
- Dermatologist
- Diagnostic fees
- Diathermy
- Drug addiction therapy
- Drugs (prescription)
- Elastic hosiery (prescription)
- Eyeglasses
- Fees paid to health institute prescribed by a doctor
- FICA and FUTA tax paid for medical treatment only
- Fluoridation unit
- Guide dog
- Gum treatment
- Gynecologist
- Healing services
- Hearing aids and batteries
- Hospital bills
- Hydrotherapy
- Insulin treatment
- Lab tests
- Lead paint removal
- Legal fees
- Lodging (away from home for outpatient care)
- Metabolism tests
- Neurologist
- Nursing (including board and meals)
- Obstetrician
- Operating room costs
- Ophthalmologist
- Optician
- Optometrist
- Oral surgery
- Organ transplant (including donor’s expenses)
- Orthopedic shoes
- Orthopedist
- Osteopath
- Oxygen and oxygen equipment
- Pediatrician
- Physician
- Physiotherapist
- Podiatrist
- Postnatal treatments
- Practical nurse for medical services
- Prenatal care
- Prescription medicines
- Psychiatrist
- Psychoanalyst
- Psychologist
- Psychotherapy
- Radium Therapy
- Registered nurse
- Special school costs for the handicapped
- Spinal fluid test
- Splints
- Sterilization
- Surgeon
- Telephone or TV equipment to assist the hard-of-hearing
- Therapy equipment
- Transportation expenses (relative to health care)
- Ultra-violet ray treatment
- Vaccines
- Vasectomy
- Vitamins (if prescribed)
- Wheelchair
- X-rays

Eligible Over-the-Counter Drugs
- Antacids
- Allergy Medications
- Pain Relievers
- Cold medicine
- Anti-diarrhea medicine
- Cough drops and throat lozenges
- Sinus Medications and Nasal sprays
- Nicotine medications and nasal sprays
- Pedialyte
- First aid creams
- Calamine lotion
- Wart removal medication
- Antibiotic ointments
- Suppositories and creams for hemorrhoids
- Sleep aids

Ineligible Medical Expenses
- Advancement payment for services to be rendered next year
- Athletic Club membership
- Automobile insurance premium allocable to medical coverage
- Boarding school fees
- Bottled Water
- Commuting expenses of a disabled person
- Cosmetic surgery and procedures
- Cosmetics, hygiene products and similar items
- Funeral, cremation, or burial expenses
- Health programs offered by resort hotels, health clubs, and gyms
- Illegal operations and treatments
- Illegally procured drugs
- Maternity clothes
- Non-prescription medication
- Premiums for life insurance, income protection, disability, loss of limbs, sight or similar benefits
- Scientology counseling
- Social activities

Ineligible Over-the-Counter Drugs
- Toilettries (including toothpaste)
- Acne treatments
- Lip balm (including Chapstick or Carmex)
- Cosmetics (including face cream and moisturizer)
- Sunscreen
- Medicated shampoos and soaps
- Vitamins (daily)
- Fiber supplements
- Dietary supplements
- Weight loss drugs for general well being
- Herbs

HEALTH BENEFIT CARD

tribal member. Once tribal members receive their applications they are to fill them out and send them back to MAA, not the Nation. Once MAA receives the completed application they will process it and send the tribal member an encoded debit card worth $500.

The debit card allows payment for all items that the Internal Revenue Service considers tax-deductible medical expenses. The debit card covers most medical expenses except for abortions, which the Osage Nation Congress declined to fund.

Some of the items on the IRS-approved list includes eyeglasses, dentures, braces, wheelchairs, alcoholism treatment, insulin treatment, surgery (except cosmetic procedures), hearing aids, medical transportation expenses, prescription costs, some over-the-counter drug costs, vaccines, X-rays, home repair if medically needed and other items. Reimbursement for eligible medical expenses will also be available (see full list, page 3).

Osages must spend the entire $500 by the end of the calendar year—there is no carryover of unspent funds to the next year. However, Osages can reapply for subsequent years as long as funding is available.

The Osage Nation Congress passed the $5.1 million health benefit plan that will provide Osages everywhere with a $500 medical debit card in the 2008 Tzi-Zho session. Applications will be accepted throughout the calendar year.

To update your address with the CDIB office, call (918) 287-5390. For more information about the $500 health benefit card, call Constituent Services at (918) 287-5662.
they will not help us, but with the chief's consent they will help us.”

Gray said in a crowded OMC meeting Feb. 17 that he would do everything in his power to work with the OMC in making sure they have a fair and accurate election and offered to meet with them that afternoon.

“I think the BIA is taking the appropriate steps to support tribal sovereignty and tribal self governance,” Gray said in a phone interview Feb. 17. “When you read the three documents, the Constitution, the 1906 act and the 2004 Reaffirmation Act, you can see that they ruled appropriately.”

**OMC meeting Feb. 17 gets heated as accusations fly**

During a Feb. 12 OMC meeting Councilwoman Cynthia Boone was voted off the Osage Nation Trust Team and her post as Budget Committee Chair was taken away and given to Councilwoman Jewell Purcell because of two alleged incidents on the controversial trip to Washington, D.C., on Jan. 22. Both incidents were discussed in Executive Session and the members voted 5-3 to remove Boone’s authorities, with one of the No votes coming from Boone herself.

“I do not feel that the punishment was just and I’m concerned at them putting Jewell Purcell as a signatory on the bank account,” Boone said after the Feb. 12 meeting. “I acted in good faith on the part of my constituency.”

In the Feb. 17 OMC meeting Boone brought up one of the alleged incidents and said that one of the OMC council members had disrespected her and her husband Tom Boone at a restaurant following the OMC’s meeting with BIA acting director Michael R. Smith in which she allegedly handed Smith a letter and refused to let the other OMC members know what it said. So at the airport, she said that she and her husband in turn disrespected the council member, which turned out to be Councilman Bob Martin.

Martin then went on to say that Boone’s husband Tom threatened him when they were exiting the jetway from the plane, which Boone vehemently denied and Martin said that Boone wouldn’t know because she was still exiting the plane and didn’t see the incident.

Derogatory comments directed at Martin came from Lou Phillips, a regular blogger on the Osage Shareholder’s Association Web site and Boone supporter, who was sitting in the audience. She yelled, “We know the truth Cynthia!” and “How do you think your mother would feel if she knew you were acting like this?” To which a general outcry from the audience erupted to call the meeting over.

Boone then asked Martin what else the OMC was going to do to her because they had already stripped her of all her authority and she said, “You going to kick me off?” in which Martin replied, “Maybe.”

Two audience members however did not agree with Phillips or Boone. Tony Daniels of Fairfax stood up and told Phillips, “I am a shareholder and you do not speak for me.” Phillips approached Daniels and began to berate him in which Martin called her out of order. Assistant Principal Chief candidate Cecelia Tallchief said, “I am Cecelia Tallchief and I have been a shareholder for [54] years and based on the numbers the [OSA] represents...they represent less than a tenth [of the shareholders].”

**OMC Election Code could be ready soon**

OMC Councilwomen Jewell Purcell and Kathryn Red Corn have developed an OMC election code that follows nearly verbatim the BIA’s Code of Federal Regula-

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A letter from Michael R. Smith, acting Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs declining a request by Osage Minerals Council Chairman John Henry Mashunkashey to oversee the OMC’s upcoming election.

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**BIA DECLINES REQUEST TO SUPERVISE UPCOMING ELECTION**

—Continued from Page 1
BIA DECLINES REQUEST TO SUPERVISE UPCOMING ELECTION

Out with the old, in with the new?
The process for electing officials vastly changed in 2004 when the Osage Tribe of Indians became the Osage Nation through the 2004 Osage Government Reform Act and Public Law 108-431 was passed. This law made it possible for the Osage to form their own government, hold their own elections and it superseded any law pertaining to the Osage Tribal Council in the 1906 Act. That was when the Minerals Council was formed, as an independent board under the new Osage three-branch government to look after the minerals estate for Osage shareholders.

The OMC runs their election parallel to BIA regulations, the OMC election will be decided by Osages who own shares in the Osage minerals estate as has been done for the past 100 years for the old Osage Tribal Council. These “shareholders” own percentages of the minerals estate and the larger the percentage owned than the more their vote counts. For example, an Osage who owns a full share of the minerals estate has more of a vote than an Osage who owns one-fourth of a share. At the end of the day when all the votes are cast, the percentages are added up to declare the winners.

The percentage way of voting among shareholders began in the 1950’s when it was thought that by voting by percentage would centralize the voting to the reservation. But as the years have passed and the shares have become more fractionated, keeping the vote centralized has become impossible. Prior to the 1950’s the Osage Tribal Council was decided by one-man, one-vote and not by percentage.

There is still a faction of Osages who deem the new form of Osage government illegal and openly protest that the only true form of government was under the 1906 Act. Which would mean all the decisions made by the tribe would be made by a tribal council and Osage shareholders.

Unfortunately under the 1906 Act only those Osages who were original allottees, meaning they signed the original 1906 roll, were considered Osage. The last allottee died in 2008 — theoretically if the Nation still functioned under the 1906 Act some could argue that the tribe would have ceased to exist when that last allottee died.

The Osage Constitution was overwhelmingly ratified by the Osage people which included shareholders. Currently shareholders make up the majority of Osage Nation officials, in both Congress and the Executive Branch. Shareholder interests are also paid special attention to in the Osage Constitution.

Could the OMC election be termed illegal?
Gray posed the question to the OMC that since the current terms of the Minerals Council expire in July that an election not run under the new Osage government could theoretically be termed illegal according to the Osage Constitution.

“I mentioned this to the Minerals Council recently and they said, ‘Who would dare challenge the council results?’ and I said, ‘Oh, anyone who lost,'” Gray said.

“The current term of the Minerals Council expires in July, so in other words if we don’t have a newly elected group to take their spot this will hold up our process of approving minerals leases and everything else, which will interfere with [shareholder] checks.”

The Minerals Council is made up of eight seats that are currently held by Mashunkashey, Kenny Bighorse Sr., Bob Martin, Kathryn Red Corn, Jewell Purcell, Cynthia Boone, Talee Red Corn and David Dubler. Currently only Kathryn Red Corn, Purcell and Boone have announced they are running for re-election. Mashunkashey and Bighorse Sr. have stated they’re not going to run.

“When I ran four years ago I told them I’d give them the best four years of my health I could give them and physically, to sit up there for any length of time just wears me out,” Mashunkashey said. “I’d rather dance [at the In-Lon-Schka] than sit in the chambers. I don’t get to dance all the way through sometimes but I’d rather dance and put my [Osage] clothes on than sit in those chambers.”

For a full list of Minerals Council candidates, visit osagenews.org.

Letters to the Editor Submissions

If you’d like to submit a letter to the editor, mail it to Osage News, Attn.: Shannon Shaw, 627 Grandview, Pawhuska, OK 74056; email sshaw@osagenews.org, or fax to (918) 287-5563. Letters must be respectful and informative to the reader, and may be edited for grammar, clarity and space.
Speaker Mason says he will not seek another nomination for the top Congressional post
Congress to choose new Speaker at the end of the 2010 Hun-Kah session

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

Osage Nation Congress Speaker Archie Mason says he will step down from the Legislative Branch’s top post after the upcoming Hun-Kah Session of Congress ends, meaning another congressperson will soon be presiding with the crack of a gavel.

“I’ve acknowledged to my colleagues that I’m not going to entertain a (speaker) nomination for the Second Osage Nation Congress,” which takes oath of office following the Nation’s June election, Mason said. He’s held the Speaker post since the Nation’s government was reformed and he was elected to the First Congress in 2006.

“I feel it’s time to step aside and let another person take over. It’s been a positive learning experience for me to see the new government birthed,” Mason said. He issued his announcement to his Congressional colleagues in writing during their 26th Special Session.

According to the Nation’s Constitution, the Speaker position is chosen amongst the Congress and that person will act as the body’s Presiding Officer. The Speaker position is held for one year and Mason’s held the position for 44 months since the First Congress took oath of office.

Mason says the role of the Speaker is “a good position to be in,” which requires the position holder to be “a good communicator with the Congress and Executive Branch” and “you have to learn to get along with the constituents.”

After the June election, Mason will remain on the Congress until 2012 when his term expires.

“I hope it will be a continued challenge for the Second Congress as well,” Mason said. It’s a healthy learning process,” he said of the Nation settling into the new government’s pace. “Indeed the way we do things are unique (in incorporating the tribe into the reformed government). One of my goals was to help create the legislative infrastructure with this new government and certainly entertain information from my colleagues.”

Mason’s announcement also comes after a contentious debate between the Congress and Executive Branch in setting the Nation’s 2010 budget which extended from the 2009 Tzi-Zho Session into January. He said he’s working on legislation which would help prevent a similar situation from reoccurring.

“I’ve accepted the goods and the bads, the ups and downs which comes with the job and we learn from those experiences as well,” he said.

Mason said he is working with Congressman Raymond Red Corn on a budget process which will “set up guidelines and timelines so things do not repeat. It was not a healthy adventure at all.”

“We hope to have it in a final draft form for Congress to vote on in March,” he said.

The Hun-Kah Session starts in March and lasts 24 days with the Speaker position chosen at the end of its run.

March 12th is the deadline for all submissions for the March issue of the Osage News

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Osages discuss 2010 candidates, election hot topics and politics online

Blogs, online group activity become lightning rod for political talk and arguments

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

With about four months to go before Osages head to the election polls, tribal members and candidates are sending messages regarding the latest political rumors, news reports and personal observations and opinions on all election-related topics into cyberspace for most to see.

Several people planning to run for the Osage Nation Congress, Minerals Council and for the principal chief and assistant principal chief's offices have established their own campaign Web sites and/or use other tribal member-targeted Web sites to communicate with the voters. But those Web sites allowing public feedback and e-mail exchanges have turned into lightning rods for information sharing and heated political debates amongst those following Osage politics.

One of the recent heated online exchanges involved former Oklahoma state representative Scott BigHorse, who plans to run for assistant principal chief, and Jenny Miller who is running for a Congressional seat. BigHorse and Miller shared their concerns about each other last month through e-mails sent to members of the Texas Osage Yahoo! Group.

“Just FYI, Ms. Miller is spreading rumors that I am a (Osage Nation Principal Chief) Jim Gray puppet. For your information I am no one’s puppet,” BigHorse wrote in a Jan. 19 message to the group members. “I read and do my own homework and vote my own mind. For someone to make that kind of statement about me without consulting with me or just asking me straight out where I stand makes that person a little suspicious at best.”

Miller responded to BigHorse’s e-mail on Jan. 23 and made a copy of these two e-mails available on her campaign Web site. “I find it unfortunate that the time has to be taken on what I consider a non-issue,” Miller wrote, adding that BigHorse “is not on my list of issues” but feels she has “no choice but to respond due to Ms. Cass having taken a position on the matter.”

There was no copy of e-mail correspondence from a person identified as Ms. Cass included with BigHorse and Miller’s e-mail copies. The Texas Osage Yahoo! Group does not keep an open message board for group members to see each other’s correspondence like a blog does, so e-mails sent by members including BigHorse and Miller are only sent to other members’ personal e-mail addresses.

Miller, who is an Executive Branch critic, wrote in her e-mail she was skeptical of BigHorse “given that he defended this administration to me...” during an exchange six months ago and she identified BigHorse’s family members who either have ties to Chief Gray or the Minerals Council who have taken political positions she opposes. For example, Miller notes that BigHorse’s father, Minerals Council member Kenneth BigHorse Sr., believes the Osage Minerals Estate belongs to the Nation’s newly-formed government while she believes the Minerals Estate should belong to the shareholders.

“Once again, please keep in mind,” Miller writes. “It was NOT I who brought this to your attention but Scott. Though he has not been an issue previously, he has made himself one now due to his attempt to discredit me.”

“I will not buy into running a negative campaign,” wrote BigHorse, “but it seems that others are doing just that and that is what we do not need to be able to move forward as a Tribe or Nation.”

These e-mail copies on Miller’s Web site are titled: “A Taste of Things to Come?”

In a late development, BigHorse contacted the Osage News Thursday afternoon – the same day this story was posted to the newspaper’s Web site and provided a copy of an e-mail he wrote to Miller in response to her Jan. 23 e-mail.

“Jenny I did not slander you or throw mud at you, the only thing I did was inform people that you are out there using my family name as puppets to JG,” BigHorse wrote. “I have a proven track record as a State Representative probably the only candidate that has experience with a three branch gov’t that has been in existence for more than 100 years. I have always stood on my own two feet. I have a full time job supporting my family so I do not have the time to stay up all night thinking of things to write to people, you have now brought my Father’s name into this as if he has done something wrong.”

BigHorse continued in his e-mail...
promote the progress of the Nation in terms of the 25-year Strategic Plan.

“I didn’t have any knowledge that this was gonna occur, these town hall meetings, nobody asked me about them and I’m on the Strategic Planning Task Force,” said Assistant Principal Chief John Red Eagle who is also running for principal chief in June. “We haven’t had a meeting in two years about the strategic plan and now all of a sudden it’s become important again.”

“It seems to me the timing of it is suspicious in my thoughts. If it is politically motivated the Nation has policies on incumbent candidates,” Red Eagle said.

The Town Hall Series, which is advertised as “Principal Chief Jim Gray presents an update on ‘The Will of the People’ Strategic Planning Accomplishments and Exciting Next Steps,” begins Tuesday at 5 p.m. at the Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center in Pawhuska. A total of nine meetings have been scheduled with six scheduled for Oklahoma and the remainder scheduled for Dallas, Houston and Northridge, Calif.

Topics scheduled for the meetings include economic development, cultural preservation, health, education, minerals and natural resources, governance and justice, followed by a question and answer session.

Gray said the town hall series was not a Nation-funded campaign and that he is doing his job as principal chief. Town hall meetings are nothing new for his administration, he said.

“The purpose of the town hall meetings is not to address my political future but to actually answer questions about the govern-

ment as it is right now and what’s going on,” Gray said. “Because I’m sorry, but there has been a lot of misinformation going on about everything from the budget debate that has taken place to the issues over how gaming is operating and whether or not we can trust the fact that we got a clean audit and whether the projections are true.”

“I want to make sure that people have a chance to hear from the individuals that are actually working on these issues to answer those questions directly without having it filtered,” Gray said.

When questioned about the timing in which he’s giving the town hall series, he replied that he understood people’s concerns but he’s not going to go by the logic that since it’s an election year he should stop doing his job.

On whether or not he’ll be seeking re-election he replied, “I will make that decision in early March.”

The Strategic Planning Task Force is made up of Red Eagle, Chief Gray, Chief of Staff Hepsi Barnett, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs David Conrad, Tax Commission Administrator Mary Mashunkashey, who is Red Eagle’s niece and Louis Gray, Primary Residential Treatment Coordinator/Counselor for the Nation, and who is also Chief Gray’s older brother.

Principal Chief Candidates speak out

Principal Chief Candidate Roy St. John felt that the town hall series was too expensive to give in the current economy.

“I don’t know how many people [Chief] Jim Gray is planning on receiving his information but I think there is a more cost effective way for him to deliver his message,” St. John said. “Because when you go to some of these locations you’re only going to get a small percentage of the citizen population.”

On whether or not St. John thought Gray was using the town hall series to campaign for his re-election St. John had no comment. “I can’t judge the man’s motives or see into his heart,” he said. Carl “Chico” Sellers on the other hand, who is also a candidate for principal chief, was more candid.

“I think it’s campaigning,” Sellers said. “He should have it once a year to tell the people what’s passed or failed . . . instead of waiting four months before an election.”

Currently there are four men who have announced their candidacies for principal chief, current Assistant Principal Chief John Red Eagle, Carl “Chico” Sellers, Roy St. John and Tim Tall Chief. Tall Chief did not respond for comment on this article before it was published.

Osage Nation LIHEAP

(Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program)

Currently assisting eligible households by one of the following:

- Paying heating bills / expenses
- Repairing or replacing heating units
- With 110 Heaters
- With Home Weatherization Kits

You may qualify if you:

- are a resident of Osage County / Osage Reservation
- possess a tribal C.D.I.B.
- qualify by 150% Poverty Income Guidelines
- or receive TANF, SSI, or Food Stamps

Please contact the office below to obtain an application or arrange an appointment to come in the office.

Osage Nation Housing Department
Amy Dobbins, Intake Specialist
P.O. Box 147
H hominy, Oklahoma 74035
Toll Free: 1-800-490-8771
Phone: 918-287-5310
Fax: 918-287-5568

www.osagetribe.com/housing

Please act quickly while funding is available!
Election Board appoints a tribal and municipal judge from Ponca City as new supervisor

OBERLY RESIGNS
—Continued from Page 1

cost tribes a lot of money, and I’ve also seen how elections can be run smoothly and save tribes a lot of money.”

Oberly was not present at the meeting but the board voted to accept her resignation and reinstate her as a board member. Whether or not she’ll resume her post as board chairwoman the board has not yet decided, said Walter Hopper Jr., the current election board chairman.

“(Oberly) was just taking that position [election supervisor] as a temporary position until we found someone more qualified,” Hopper said at the meeting.

Oberly had no comment for this article.

Otipoby, a Comanche tribal member, is a tribal judge for Anadarko area tribes, the Kickapoo Tribe and is the tribal prosecutor for the Tonkawa Tribe. She is also a Municipal judge for the communities of Shidler, Kaw City and Fairfax.

Election Board Communications Policy

Otipoby presented a policy for when the election board communicates or receives communication from the Nation’s Executive Branch, as well as potential and declared candidates, at the meeting. The policy states that it was also drafted to complement the Executive Branch Protocol and Procedures for Working with and Communicating to the Osage Nation Congress. Commonly known as the “gag order,” the Executive Branch policy restricts Osage Nation employees from communicating with Congress. The Executive Branch protocol was revised and approved March 26, 2009.

The election board approved its new communications policy Wednesday and Hopper said that the policy will now have to be approved by the Osage Nation Congress.

“I think there was some things in the [Osage Nation] Constitution and the [Osage Nation Election Law] that weren’t really that clear, and we’re just making sure we communicate with everyone in the proper way and the proper form,” Hopper said in a phone interview today.

The policy states that when the Executive Branch communicates with the board, all communications are to be directed to the chairman of the board. The chairman then disseminates the information to the appropriate person. All communications, back and forth, are to be recorded and kept by the election board for a period of seven years.

For communications with potential or declared candidates, the candidates must direct all written communications to the chairman of the election board. Election board staff is responsible for documenting the contact information of all potential and declared candidates and the manner of their visits. When appropriate, communications may be recorded by audio or video means.

The policy also states that there is no expectation of privacy within the communications of the election board, its staff or contractors and any declared or potential candidates. Anything discussed privately will be in Executive Session of a board meeting, such as personnel matters or matters concerning election board attorneys or legal matters.

For more information call the Election Board Office at (918) 287-5286 or visit their Web site at www.osagetribe.com/electionboard/

For more election coverage go to www.osagenews.org.
Yates announces bid for Osage Minerals Council

I am honored to announce my candidacy for the Osage Minerals Council

By Andrew Yates, Candidate for Osage Minerals Council

I am honored to announce my candidacy for the Osage Minerals Council. I am the great grand son of Henry & Hope Coshehe, grandson of John & Josephine Coshehe and the son of Paul & Eva Mae Coshehe Yates. I am of the Beaver Band and the Sun Carrier clan from the Wa-Xa-Ko-Li District. My family participates in the June dances each year and I have served on past In-Lo-Sh-Ka committees. I graduated from St. Gregorys College in Shawnee, Oklahoma and attended the University of Oklahoma. I currently own and operate a small ranch south of Pawhuska, Oklahoma on restricted Indian property, with my wife of 12 years, Shelly and my two young daughters Annabelle Eva and Josephine Mae Yates. My oldest daughter Jennifer Kathleen Yates attends college in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

I am an Osage Mineral shareholder and currently serve on the Evergreen Rural Water Board District # 18. I also have gas mineral interests outside of Osage County.

For 25 years, I have worked in the Osage Nation Environmental & Natural Resources Department’s Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program. My job is to oversee oil and gas industry Class II salt water injection wells on the Osage Reservation. I have worked closely with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency during my 25 years in the UIC program. I am knowledgeable with oil and gas activities and environmental issues that affect the Osage Reservation. In addition, I am very familiar with the operations of the Osage Minerals Council and the issues that face the mineral estate and the shareholders.

I believe that my cultural background and my professional career prepare me to represent the Osage shareholders as an Osage Minerals Councilman. I am confident that my cultural appreciation and technical experience will guide me in deciding questions before the Council. My goal in making these decisions will be to maximize production on the Reservation while protecting the shareholder’s assets for future generations. I look forward to meeting and visiting with you in the near future. In the meantime, please contact me at (918) 846-2344 or email me at andrewyates@live.com if you have questions.

Andrew Yates
to defend his positions on the Minerals Estate.

Internet blogs, campaign Websites also used to discuss 2010 election

With the Nation’s election slated for June, concerns about how the polls will operate are becoming regular topics on the Osage Shareholder Association’s blog (launched in 2006) in which tribal members (shareholders or not) and interested parties use it to engage and inform each other. On Feb. 1, for example, an unidentified blogger posted the link to the Election Board’s Web site with the agenda for its Feb. 2 meeting which featured a presentation by two political science college professors who have studied election topics.

“In other words, do we really need another University ‘Project’ putting its stamp of approval, in this case, on our election by doing research that may not be reviewed for accuracy, methodology, nor potential research impact; or peer-reviewed?” asked a blogger identified as “P.S.” The Nation’s election process has been a long-standing hot topic among the OSA bloggers since several out-of-area voters complained about not receiving their absentee ballots in time for the Nation’s 2006 election.

Mary Lee Evans, OSA treasurer and one of several regular blog contributors wrote a Jan. 30 post, “Letter to all Congressman except Kugee,” asking them to “reread the 1906 Act of Congress” in regards to the upcoming Minerals Council election.

“Hope you guys will see to it that the elections are run honestly,” Evans wrote on the OSA blog. “Remember what goes around comes around, and (sic) the people are truly getting fed up with ridiculous actions by Jim Gray and some of the Congress and employees. I certainly am.”

Evans does not specify any “ridiculous actions” for example, but adds “I do not want the Osage Nation to be involved with the Minerals Council election!” No one has responded to this blog entry as of Feb. 3.

Absentee ballot request applications are now available online for the June election on the Election Board’s Web site at www.osagetribe.com and links to the application have been posted by OSA blogging candidates including Miller and Roy St. John, who is running for principal chief.

So far, principal chief candidates John Red Eagle, Carl “Chico” Sellers and Tim Tall Chief have Web sites and so does Minerals Council candidate Myron Red Eagle and Congressional candidate Jake Hein.

Miller, who includes her basic profile on her Web site is also posting copies of tribal government-related matters and electronic newsletters written by her and Congressman William “Kugee” Supernaw who writes “Notes to the Nation” via mass e-mail about newsmakers such as the recent Minerals Council trip to Washington D.C.

Yahoo! Groups being used to target out-of-state Osages

At least two Yahoo! Groups targeting Osages living in Texas and the Pacific Northwest are being used to allow tribal members in those regions to network and discuss anything related to the tribe.

David Conrad, the Nation’s executive director of government affairs, started the “Pacific Northwest Osages” group last month. Conrad, who previously worked in New Mexico and started a similar networking group for Osages in that state, decided to do the same for the region which covers Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

Conrad lives part-time in Idaho where his wife, of Nez Perce heritage, is from and telecommutes for his job with the Osage Nation.

Conrad lives part-time in Idaho where his wife, of Nez Perce heritage, is from and telecommutes for his job with the Osage Nation.

Nine people have joined the Pacific Northwest Osage group as of Feb. 2 and residents from the Oregon cities of Grants Pass, Ashland and Brookings have spurred group conversations to start networking.

To see messages from the election candidates submitted to the Osage News, go online to www.osagenews.org.
Irons announces bid for Assistant Principal Chief

Irons: “This is perhaps the most important office within our form of government.”

By Jeff Irons, Candidate for Assistant Principal Chief

My name is Jeffery Irons and I am announcing my candidacy for the Office of Assistant Principal Chief of the Osage Nation. This is perhaps the most important office within our form of government. I say this because it is the only office our constitution allows the Office Holder a voice on two branches of our government, the Executive and Congressional. This Office Holder should have a vast knowledge of budget experience, government operations and accountability that protects public funds while building the public trust. I feel my past job experience and knowledge qualifies me for this Office. Please consider the following while comparing each candidate in making your decision on our next Assistant Principal Chief.

I was employed with the Oklahoma State Auditor and Inspector’s office for 5 years. Three of those years I was assigned to the Special Investigation Division. I investigated public officials accused of fraud, misuse of public funds, open meeting violations, and other crimes against the public. This job entailed tracing financial transactions, reviewing board minutes, examining internal controls and reviewing public records to determine if the allegations were supported by fact. The report would be submitted to the District Attorney or State Attorney General’s office to assist in legal decisions against the accused.

I spent two years with the State Agency Division auditing government agencies. The experience with SA& I gave me the knowledge of how a government should operate effectively and how to identify and correct deficiencies within a government.

Having spent 13 years with the Oklahoma Department of Commerce I was responsible for over $6,500,000 in Federal and State grant funds. I conducted presentation of the grant program to governmental entities and developed and approve grant applications that met the national objectives of the program.

My wife Theresa and I have been married for 27 years. We have one son Mathias, age 16 and one daughter Elizabeth, age 14. My Mother is the late Imogene Jefferson Irons and my Grandmother is the late Louise Butler Jefferson. I am proud of my family that includes 3 sisters, Christina Roan, Sylvia Butler, Kari (Tincy) Fish and one brother Barry Irons and several nephew and nieces.

Presently, I am the Manager of the Federal grants program for the Osage Nation in the Office of Strategic Planning and Grants Management. This position has provided me with an understanding of how the Nation is currently operating and where improvements need to be implemented.

As all of us are aware, the Nation is facing some challenging times with the new government. This is why it is so critical to have leaders with experience and knowledge in government operations. It is with my experience in mind that I ask for your VOTE and SUPPORT for the Office of Assistant Principal Chief.

Throughout the weeks to come I will provide you with information on the myriad of issues at the forefront of our government. If you have questions please call me at 405-826-0721 or 918-642-1201 during the evening.

Cynthia Boone announces her bid for re-election to Osage Minerals Council

By Cynthia Boone, Candidate for Osage Minerals Council

I was born in Los Angeles, California and raised in Pawhuska, Oklahoma. My husband Tom and I raised two sons, Tom Jr. and Daniel. We have one granddaughter, Rachel. We are all culturally affiliated. Tom serves on the Grayhorse committee. I received my Indian name from Margaret Shunkamolah. We reside on Original Allotment property south of Pawhuska.

I retired from the Indian Health Service in 2003 after 27 years of dedicated service. Where I managed a comprehensive health service. I was responsible for managing a multi million dollar government budget.

I was honored to become your elected official of the Minerals Council in June 2006. My meeting attendance is remarkable. My voting record identifies me as being on the side of the headright owner.

I believe in keeping my constituents informed. I have faithfully attended the local Osage Shareholder Association meetings for the last three years. I also attend faithfully the United Osages of Southern California meetings twice a year.

I am announcing my candidacy for re-election to the Minerals Council. You can contact me by email: tom@cowboy.net or by telephone. My home number is (918) 287-2920 or cell (918) 698-3314.
Louis Gray announces candidacy for Osage Nation Congress

By Louis Gray, Candidate for Osage Nation Congress

Louis Gray has announced his intention to run for the Osage Nation Congress. I’m running to help heal the wounds this nation has suffered. I plan to run this campaign free of pointing fingers at anyone and spend my time concentrating on learning more about Osage needs.

I want to use the Osage Strategic Plan as a guide on many issues to be addressed legislatively. I will also be open to real time problems as they arise.

I want to propose we pass all federal grants out of committee on October 1 of each year to allow them to meet the critical needs of our people. Tribal funds should be addressed at the same time, but it appears those funds are often debated vigorously because they belong to the Nation.

I want to be a part of the effort to turn Tulsa Osage Million Dollar Elm into a first class gaming facility. Through the use of tribal bonds, gaming investment and tribal funds we need to compete and grow at our downtown facility. It is the crown jewel of our gaming facilities and we need to compete with Creek and Cherokee casinos that are building everyday, as we do nothing. That can’t stand.

Support the efforts to improve the delivery of healthcare to all Osages. I will push to make the congress susceptible to the same ethics laws the rest of the government is subject to.

I know many worry the campaign will be dirty and full of unpleasant behavior. I don’t think we have to accept that notion. We can all do better.

If you want a candidate who will hate and fight other congressman, the other branches and the Osage people, then you need to look somewhere else.

Now is the time for thoughtful, hard-working lawmakers who are constantly working for ways to improve the lives of our Osage people.

We need to support the preservation of the Osage language and other aspects of our culture. We have made great strides with our world-class program and must continue to bring back the one thing that is uniquely Osage.

My father was on the council when it faced its darkest hour and he helped take us off a termination bill. It will take another great effort to progress.

I am a member of the Deer Clan who traditionally serves as the Peacemakers of our tribe. My Osage name is Wah Sha Nompe (Osage whom they fear to see); I was a tail-dancer for 28 years, and now serve my people as a committeeman. I recently joined the Osage Gourd Dance Group.

My favorite activity is spending time with my children and grandchildren. My wife of seven years is Michelle Vesper Gray. We look forward to serving you, my Osage people.

If elected I promise to work to unite our people and remember that I serve the Osage people they don’t serve me.

For more information you can find my page Louis Gray for Osage Congress on Facebook.

Shawnee Public Schools Indian Education Powwow

Shawnee Indian Education Program
Shawnee, Oklahoma

Saturday, February 27, 2010
Old Shawnee Middle School Gym
501 N. Union

Head Staff
MC
Head Singer
Head Man
Head Lady
Head Boy
Head Girl
AD
Host Northern Drum
Color Guard
Mark Wilson
Rowe Kishkeaton
Henry Hunter
Jessica Moore
Robert Torres
Krystle Logan
Randy Frazier
Blackbird Singers
OKCPS Student Color Guard

Special Guest
Honored Educator Mary Haney
Honored Educator Paul Pounds

Schedule
Gourd Dancing: 2pm
Supper: 5pm
Gourd Dancing: 6pm
Grand Entry: 7pm

Contest
Adult Contest ($200, $100, $50)
Men’s Categories: Straight, Fancy, Grass/Traditional (Combined)
Women’s Categories: Southern Cloth, Buckskin, Jingle/Fancy (Combined)
Youth Contest: Tiny Tots, Jr./Teen Boys, Jr./Teen Girls
Booth Space Available
For more info call Indian Education Office (405)879-1030.
All Veterans, Princesses, Dancers & Drumsmen Welcome
No Alcoholic Beverages or Drugs Allowed
Not responsible for thefts or accidents!
EVERYONE WELCOME!
Inviting all Title VII/JOM Indian Education programs.

March 12th is the deadline for all submissions for the March issue of the Osage News
This year the 4th Annual Osage Sovereignty Day Celebration will be held at the Osage County Fairgrounds just south of Pawhuska, west of Hwy 99.

The change in location for this year’s dance will better expand the day’s events to include free cultural activities and booths by our artists, craftsmen and tribal programs.

Our Wah Zha Zhi Cultural Center staff has planned an Osage Hand Game, Indian Dice and trade exhibitions on finger weaving, beading and other events in a Cultural Activity Tent which will be open from 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. This is a great opportunity for Osage families to experience Osage Culture in a hands-on atmosphere. Booths will open at 2 p.m.

The celebration will be streamed live on our Web site at osagetribe.com beginning at 2 p.m. Central Standard Time and will be available for viewing through our archives on the Web site following March 11.

Doors will open at 1 p.m. and Gourd Dancing begins at 2 p.m. Specials requested for head staff will be at 4 p.m. A traditional dinner will follow the gourd dance at 5 p.m. Cooks will be serving meat gravy, corn soup, frybread, green beans with potatoes, salad, desserts and drinks.

Principal Chief Jim Gray will present his State of the Nation address at 6 p.m. which will be followed by more gourd dancing and grand entry at 7 p.m. Contests in men’s straight, fancy dance, ladies cloth will follow grand entry with a children’s dance exhibition at 8:30 p.m. All contestants must be registered and participate in grand entry. Prize money is $300 First Place all categories, $200 Second Place all categories, $100 Third Place all categories.

Masters of Ceremony for the event will be Archie Mason, Speaker of our Osage Nation Congress and Assistant Chief John Red Eagle. Host drum will be Soldier Creek and Arena Director will be Fi Davis.

To register for booth space, call

See SOVEREIGNTY DAY —Continued on Page 16
Osage figure skater wins third place at U.S. Nationals

Lindsay Davis will compete in April at her first international competition in Italy

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

Lindsay Davis spends six days a week on the ice practicing her figure skating routines, which she says demands diligence to compete with other skaters also vying for top honors in the sport. In April, she will have her first chance to compete with the best skaters in the world.

The 17-year-old Osage, who is a Beaumont, Calif., resident, has been skating since age four and now competes in both singles and pairs figure skating categories. Last month, Davis took third place in the junior ladies category at the U.S. Figure Skating Nationals in Spokane, Wash., which makes her eligible to compete and represent the United States at international competitions.

“I was so shocked just because it’s a dream come true to place (in the top three),” said Davis, who has also competed at other national competitions including those in Colorado and New York. “It’s awesome, literally a dream come true.”

Davis’s first shot at international competition will be in April. She is slated to compete in the Gardena Spring Trophy competition in Italy, which will also mark her first trip overseas.

Davis started skating as a kid after her mother, Debbie Davis, who was a recreational skater at the time, introduced Lindsay Davis to the ice at the urging of her skating coach.

“My first coach just bugged me and bugged me to put her on the ice,” Debbie Davis recalls. “I’m so proud of her and all of her hard work and goals are paying off.”

“I got hooked,” Lindsay Davis said of her first time skating.

“I love the thrill of learning new things. Skating is very different from other sports. There’s always something to learn.”

In addition to skating in the singles category, Davis also skates in pairs and together, she and her partner skate for about 90 minutes on her practice days.

Davis plans on competing in the U.S. Nationals competition again next year which will be held in Greensboro, N.C., and will enter both the singles and pairs categories. “It’s going to be interesting this year,” she said of practicing skating routines for the Italy competition and 2011’s Nationals.

Right now Davis is working on her triple jumps including the triple loop, triple salchow and triple loop. The hardest of the jumps performed in figure skating routines – the triple Lutz – is not on Davis’s radar at the moment.

“I still need to learn other jumps first,” she said, adding only a few women have successfully performed a triple Lutz in figure skating history. Davis said she enjoys competing in both categories because of their strengths such as the company and working relationship required in pairs skating and “the freedom of movement” in singles.

Davis is planning on competing at future competitions and if she successfully places high during the next Olympic year, she could be joining the best of the best international skaters when they meet for the 2014 Olympic Games in Russia.

Davis’s Oklahoma ties are through her mother’s family. Deb-
Marylou Gore’s Pineapple Upside Down Cake
Submitted by Tara Manthey, Little Rock, AR

• 1 can sliced pineapple, drained
• 1 cube butter, or margarine
• Brown sugar
• 1 box yellow cake mix, mixed as directed. Make high altitude adjustments if you are a Colorado Osage.
• Maraschino cherries (optional)

Directions:
Melt butter in rectangular baking pan on stove top at medium/low heat. When melted, sprinkle handfuls of brown sugar until the bottom of the pan is entirely covered enough to absorb the butter. Arrange the pineapple evenly in the cake pan. Place a cherry in the center of each ring. Pour prepared cake mix into the pan.

Bake at cake mix box suggested temperature and for the suggested amount of time. Check for doneness with toothpick, or spring back test. Remove from oven and let cool five minutes. Run a table knife around the inside of the baking pan. Place serving plate on top of the baking pan and turn over to release the cake from the pan.

Osage Recipes
(918) 287-5555 or find applications online at osagetribe.com. Our membership department will be on hand to take registration for Osage membership. Tribal programs will be on hand to provide information and opportunities.

Osage Figure Skater
—Continued from Page 15

bie Davis is Osage on her father’s side with family members from the Skiatook area.
When she is not skating, Davis has independent school studies through the Beaumont School District and will graduate in May with plans to pursue community college studies when she’s done. She also enjoys spending time at home with her family, which includes both parents, an older brother and two dogs as well as shopping.
“I’m a great budget finder,” Davis said with a laugh.
Debbie Davis says one great thing that’s come from Lindsay’s skating ventures is the family’s opportunities to travel across the country, which has put hundreds of miles on their van. Debbie Davis says it can cost between $25,000 to $35,000 per year to support her daughter’s sport which includes practice time on the ice, coaches, choreography and food and lodging.
“There’s so much that goes into training these kids to get to where they are today,” Debbie Davis said. Anyone interested in helping sponsor Lindsay Davis can get in touch with the New England Amateur Skating Foundation, a nonprofit based in Providence, R.I. which helps amateur skaters pay for their competition expenses.
Lindsay Evans praises her parents and coaches for helping her with her skating activities and achievements. “They’re the foundation for my skating. They’ve sacrificed so much for me – the best I can do is try and make them proud.”

Osage Figure Skater —Continued from Page 15

(918) 287-5555 or find applications online at osagetribe.com. Our membership department will be on hand to take registration for Osage membership. Tribal programs will be on hand to provide information and opportunities.
Questions arise as MDE employees don’t receive first quarter bonuses

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

Osage Million Dollar Elm Casino officials say an independent audit report of its 2009 fiscal year operations gives the entity a “clean bill of health,” which counters the information shared in an Osage Nation congresswoman’s recent newsletter indicating that casino employees will not receive a first quarter bonus for FY 2010.

In a Jan. 29 letter to casino executive staff, MDE CEO Neil Cornelius said “the fundamental reason for the inability to provide the bonus is a downturn in revenue generated at all locations.” This resulted in the casino not reaching their revenue target which triggers the employee bonuses.

“I believe this to be a temporary setback,” writes Cornelius. “We did not miss our goals by much and had it not been for the weather-related outages we likely would have made our goals. It is important to note we have not changed the bonus process and this was not a reason for not reaching our goals.”

In addition to the recent heavy winter storms, Cornelius lists several factors leading to the bonus target miss including the downturn in the economy which impacts casino customer visits; new gaming amenities offered by competing area tribes last year; ongoing freeway construction which affects Tulsa casino access; and the recent focus on overhauling the casino’s accounting system.

Two days later, Congressman William “Kugee” Supernaw wrote about the casino bonuses’ non-disbursement in his Jan. 31 “Notes to the Nation” e-mail newsletter stating: “Let me tell you that this is disturbing, but not surprising news to this member of Congress.”

In his newsletter, Supernaw refers to prior MDE accounting problems which prompted four Congress members, including him, to visit the Hominy casino in July 2008 to inspect the casino’s financial records. These visits resulted in the congresspersons being investigated by the Gaming Commission for accessing the employees-only areas of the casinos to view the records.

Regarding the Hominy casino visit, Supernaw wrote: “…members of Congress exercised their oversight responsibility and investigated the reports of accounting irregularities… only to be investigated ourselves, blasted in the Osage News and for a time even questioned by others members of Congress. Now, it is obvious to all that our concerns were right on; the fact that the accounting is still having problems indicates that things were even worse than we thought at the time.”

Supernaw also referred to the Congressional Commerce and Economic Committee meeting held on Jan. 27, which included a closed-door discussion with Cornelius and other gaming officials.

“Much of the meeting was in executive session so I can’t talk about all that we were told,” wrote Supernaw, “but I can tell you what we were not told: We were not told that there would be any problem meeting projections, yet two days later the memo (by Cornelius) was delivered. Even though I pressed for information on the revenue projection – during and after the meeting - no hint of a problem was indicated.”

Gray responds to Supernaw’s ‘Notes,’ focuses on MDE’s ‘tremendous progress’

Principal Chief Jim Gray wrote to the entire Congress on Feb. 3, after his office started receiving phone calls regarding the casino employee bonuses, “which were reportedly sparked by misinformation contained in” Supernaw’s newsletter.

“While it is true that Million Dollar Elm Casinos did not hit first quarter revenue targets at the level triggering the bonus award, to overstate and characterize the millions of dollars in revenue that was generated as a sign of business collapse or failure is neither fair nor accurate,” Gray wrote. “Let’s be clear, this is not designated as an entitlement program,” he said of the casino employee bonuses.

“While Congressman Supernaw chose to focus only on the ‘problems’ in his depiction of this matter, I, on the other hand, want to take this opportunity to focus on the tremendous progress,” Gray wrote. He referred Congress to a Jan. 29 letter he received from Gaming Enterprise Board Chairwoman Elizabeth Homer written after Cornelius informed her of the MDE’s financial status.

Homer said the casino employees will not be eligible for a first quarter bonus, per the Gaming Enterprise’s written bonus policy.

“Doubtlessly, the Enterprise’s employees are disappointed, which is regrettably and certainly understandable, but adherence to the bonus policy is essential to the fiscal discipline needed to ensure the profitability and long-term success” of the casinos, Homer writes. “To the extent that the forbearance may create concerns about the Enterprise’s financial health, rest assured that profitability for the first quarter was strong.”

Also in his Jan. 29 memo, Cornelius noted the casino operations recently received an “unqualified audit,” of its FY 2009 financial statements. “That means all of the work done by our financial staff has resulted in an independent audit firm auditing our operations and giving us a clean bill of health,” he wrote.

REDW The Rogoff Firm, based in Albuquerque, N.M., conducted the audit and issued an unqualified opinion. The company specializes in accounting and business and financial consulting with more than 25 years of experience in working with Native American tribes, its Web site states.

In closing, Homer also writes that “planned purchases of new gaming will increase revenue over time by reducing commissions and fees currently paid to gaming vendors under existing lease agreements. In sum, we anticipate that the Enterprise will meet or exceed the expectations spelled out in the annual plan of operation.”
Osage Language Department feeling budget woes

The Bigheart Times

Since 2003, when the 31st Osage Tribal Council approved the creation of a program to preserve and teach the Osage language, hundreds of children and adults have won awards and taken to their native tongue with gusto.

But the immersion classes, the trips to Norman to bring home dozens of awards from the annual language fair, and a large project to create an historic database of the Siouxan language are all pretty much stopped in their tracks this year thanks to budget cuts and a possible restructuring of the entire department.

The department has found itself in a Catch-22 due to the tribal budget fiasco that left it and the rest of the tribe operating on a monthly budget that limited it to 1/12 of the previous year’s budget: It abided by that policy, then, earlier this month, was given a new budget that contained only $1 in seven line items – supplies, postage, outside printing, dues and subscriptions, transportation, lodging, and special events. In those areas, under the 1/12 rule, the program had already spent in excess of $13,000.

In addition, its budget was cut by almost 14 percent or $137,000, from $1.047 million in fiscal 2009 to $901,000 in fiscal 2010.

The response by a majority of Congress to the budgetary snafu: Department heads can shift money from salaries to those line items. In the case of language, that’s a hard order to fill. The project manager’s $41,885-a-year job is now open thanks to the departure of Jodie Revard, a former member of the Tribal Council who was the project manager over the program until Christmas. Instead, she said, Lookout wanted a researcher to build a lasting database of the language historically.

The cuts, initiated by the Osage Nation Congress after a long and twisted budget standoff with the Executive Branch of the tribal government, left the language program scrambling to cancel trips, subscriptions and even struggling to buy paper and pens, but moreover has deeply harmed the very heart of the program, which has been the envy of and sought-after model for other tribal language programs, said Revard.

“All of the other tribes love our language program,” she said. “But our own government doesn’t.”

The biggest damage, she said, is to the effort to preserve the language but creating a database of recordings and documents from the Smithsonian Institution that would leave a long legacy and record of the language for future generations. To boot, having a database allows those who advance in the language to continue to learn, instead of hitting a brick wall because there’s no more to teach them.

“I was on the 31st Council when we created the Language Program, and we all said, ‘Yeah, start teaching!’

“If I had understood it better, I would have said ‘Start preservation!’

“We did it backwards.”

The Osages sought the help of the Ho-Chunk Nation to design a database, which is slowly being built by Cameron Pratt, Revard said. “Before it was sitting in boxes at the office and in private homes.” In addition, the program found vast language records at the Smithsonian Institution that it now cannot obtain because it doesn’t have the $20,000 it would cost to copy the material.

With the database, Revard said, the language can be studied, documented in depth: Words like “stand” vary depending on their context: To stand with honor, for instance, is different than standing with shame. And the language changed with the world around it, especially after the 1920s: When automobiles came into being, the Osage language came up with a word to describe the new conveyances. In addition, the database accounts for different dialects between different Osage camps.

“In the long run, the database is

See LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT — Continued on Page 24
Congress chooses Robert Warrior to serve on Osage News Editorial Board

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

The Osage Nation Congress selected one of two Osage academic scholars considered for the Editorial Board which oversees the Osage News during its Special Session Feb. 10.

By majority vote, the Congress chose Robert Warrior, director of American Indian Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, as its appointment for the Editorial Board after a congressional committee conducted separate phone interviews with Warrior and Teresa Trumbly Lamsam who sat on the newspaper’s Editorial Council appointed by Principal Chief Jim Gray last year.

Congresspersons who attended a Congressional Committee on Government Operations meeting the morning of Feb. 10 asked Warrior and Lamsam questions about their prior journalism experiences, their thoughts on the responsibilities of the Editorial Board and the newspaper and news judgment.

“It seems to me that judgment is a really important aspect of journalism and of having a free press,” Warrior said in his interview. “We have a lot of people who need information and they need good information to make the kind of decisions that they’re looking to make... and I think the people need to have information that seems to be fairly presented and well reported.”

Warrior, who is a professor of American Indian studies, English and history in Illinois, said he also serves as a series editor for the University of Minnesota Press which edits and publishes scholar writings. He’s also written articles for newspapers including News from Indian Country, Lakota Times and Village Voice in addition to scholarly journals.

In writing for various publications, Warrior said he believes the relationship or partnership between an editor and a writer is an “important one.” He cited working with publication editors who were non-Native Americans and new to issues affecting Indian Country when he wrote articles about them as an example.

Warrior holds a doctorate in systematic theology from the Union Theological Seminary in New York; a master’s degree in religion from Yale University; and a bachelor’s in speech communication from Pepperdine University. He’s also worked or lectured at other institutions including the University of Oklahoma, Stanford University, University of Chicago and the University of California-Berkley.

Congressman Raymond Red Corn asked Warrior if he believes anything in the Osage News would “lead you to believe that any eminent or immediate changes need to be made.”

“No, not that I see,” Warrior replied. “The current editor, Shannon Shaw, was a student of mine at OU, I’ve known her since she was a kid... I was really pleased when she came back home to take on this responsibility,” he said, adding he was aware of her prior journalism posts which includes reporting for the Santa Fe New Mexican.

Warrior’s work also includes serving as an academic adviser for the PBS-TV mini-series “We Shall Remain,” which focuses on U.S. history told from the Native American perspective. He’s written several books including Like a Hurricane: The Indian Movement from Alcatraz to Wounded Knee with Comanche scholar Paul Chaat Smith, which focuses on Native American politics and protests during the 1960s and 1970s.

During Lamsam’s interview, Congress Speaker Archie Mason asked Lamsam, a former editor of the Osage Nation News, what she would contribute to the board if chosen. She is now an associate professor at the University of Nebraska-Omaha in the School of Communications where her research interests include Native American journalism.

“I have dedicated my academic career to the subject of media in Native communities,” said Lamsam who added she left the tribal newspaper to further her studies, which includes a master’s and doctorate degrees from the University of Missouri in journalism.

In addition to academics, Lamsam held five positions while working as a journalist for the Lubbock Avalanche Journal in Texas and wrote freelance articles while living overseas. As a professor, Lamsam has taught news writing and editing courses and has served as an editor for student special projects.

“Since (leaving the tribal newspaper), I’ve waited for an opportunity to give back... the most likely place for that to occur would be within my own tribe,” Lamsam said. “Now that the structure of the board is going to be secure and I think that will make it politically secure, I think that is going to make for a better environment for the newspaper, its staff and whoever ends up being on the board,” which will be a good foundation.

Both Warrior and Lamsam were asked how “political strife” should be covered in the newspaper, which comes in the wake of several tensions involving the Nation’s executive and legislative branches over topics such as setting the 2010 fiscal year budget.

“Fair and balanced,” said Lamsam. “I do not think there can be a perception that the newspaper leans toward administration or leans toward Congress... I would rather us being perceived as advocates for the community rather than advocates for politicians. But at the same time, what goes on in those political offices is very important to members of the Nation and they want to know about it.”

Regarding online media, Lamsam noted there are more outlets through the Internet where people are getting their news including the Osage News, which started a Web site last year. “The ability for the people to access their news online is going to be very important,” she said adding “I would caution against getting away from the (newspaper) print version and going entirely online... I think it’s premature to make that move because I’m not sure of the Internet access of most people and if they...
The Pah Sue Lee Club poses after a meeting that was held at the Osage Nation Language Center in Fairfax on Feb. 11. The get-together was their “Valentine’s Day Meeting.” (Back row L to R) Tammy West, Sandra Maker, Jan Mansfield, Alice Jake, Ashley Worley, Katie Pratt, Dolores Burnett, Carol Gleason, Beverly Brownfield, Dolores Goodagle, Sharon McKinley, Gina Gray, Francis West, Billie Ponca and Jackie Butler. (Center row L to R) Tessie Willie, Mildred Lunsford, Judy Tiger, Allison Luttrel, Cora Hickey, Carolyn Keeler, Linda Jackson, Virginia Bennett, Beth Shaw, Gayle Ann Hutchins and Paula Martinez. (Front row L to R) Norma Bird, Eunice “Dolly” Lane and Jonelle Pratt.

Mildred Lunsford checks over her cards at the Pah Sue Lee “Valentine’s Day” meeting in Fairfax on Feb. 11.

ABOVE: Gayle Ann Hutchins shuffles a deck of cards during a game of “Pitch” at the Pah Sue Lee “Valentine’s Day” meeting on Feb. 11.

ABOVE: Beverly Brownfield, President of the Pah Sue Lee Club, starts their “Valentine’s Day” meeting at the Osage Nation Language Center on Feb. 11.

Alice Jake checks her cards during a game of “Pitch” at the Pah Sue Lee “Valentine’s Day” meeting on Feb. 11.
Penguins in Skiatook!

Well, penguins made out of snow that is. Taylor and Brandon Hight spent their snow day making a family of penguins with their mother and father Brad Hight and Christie Duty.

Taylor, who is in Mrs. Davidson’s 2nd Grade Class at Marrs Elementary School in Skiatook had been studying penguins in class for a couple of weeks. When it came time to play in the snow she and her family made a family of penguins. Using spray paint left over from Halloween they made their creations life like and caught the eye of Channel 6 News in Tulsa, Okla.

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P.O. Box 834, Pawhuska, OK 74056 jredeagle@johnredeagle.com
http://www.johnredeagle.com
Do you know this person?

The Osage Nation Membership Office needs your help in locating the correct address for these individuals. If you know the whereabouts of one or more of these individuals please call the membership office at (918) 287-5390. Names are listed with last, first and middle

Adams, Colton James
Akers, Joy Elizabeth
Aldridge, Patricia Earlene
Allen, Logan James
Anderson, Christopher Douglas
Anderson, Donna Renee
Anderson, Eric Lucas
Anderson, Sarah Rhea
Anderson, Seth Patrick
Andrae, Cindy Marie
Arnold, Stacey Iris
Atterberry, Bobbie Lee
Austin, John Scott
Bargas, Michael Joel
Barnett, Janet
Barnett, Ralph Raymond
Beadle, Clarissa Nicole
Bell, Alynn Lyons
Bennett, Theodore Oliver
Billingsley, Jay, Oscar, Jr.
Binning, Joseph L.
Block, Lawrence Dwight
Block, Robert Vincent
Bohannon, Eric Lee
Bohannon, Pasia Kihekah Nichole
Boone, Francis Maynard
Boren, John Franklin, Jr.
Boulanger, Angela Rachelle
Boulanger, Jason Dwight
Bowlin, Gale Lynn
Bradshaw, Thomas Lewis
Bragg, Lovenia Rose
Brennan, Katherine Ann
Brennan, Patrick Michael
Briggs, Geraldine Joy
Briggs, Virginia Marie
Briley, John Lee
Brothers, John Oscar
Brown, April Dawn
Brown, William Parrish
Bruce, Billy Rea
Bullard, Jeremy James
Bullard, Joshua Michael
Burkhart, Catherine Lillian
Burrough, Brian Anderson
Burruss, Amos Andrew, Jr.
Burruss, Thomas David
Busch, Patrick Duane
Cagle, Christopher Alan
Callahan, Deborah Lynne
Campbell, Bryan Alan
Carkhuff, Debra Gay
Carmichael, Robert Larry
Carpenter, Jarod Vernon
Carter, Taylor Jaren
Carvajal, Julia Ann
Case, Brooke Benet
Case, William Clyde
Cass, Anthony Newton
Cass, Meloney Renee
Castillo, Thomas Joseph, Jr.
Catlett, Sara JoEllen
Caton, Kasey Beth
Cecil, Shannon Anissa
Chaney, Ross
Ching, Casey Kim Cheong
Clark, Thelma Louise
Clark, Travis Gary
Clopp, Shelby Ann
Clore, Annette
Cole, Callie
Coleman, James Eric, Jr.
Coleman, Zena Kay
Collins, Christen Nicole
Collins, Forrest Scott
Conwell, Betty Jean
Cooper, Elwood Elmer
Cortado, Tamara Wynn
Corum, James Robert
Cosby, Heather Laverne
Cotther, Deann
Cox, Abbie Ryan
Cranston, Jamie Melissa
Cresap, Gina Lee
Crowder, William Benjamin
Cuffel, Kelly Jean
Dale, James Andrew
Davenport, Gene Evans
Davis, Richard Abraham
Davis, Skyler Blue
De Rosa, Holly Kay
DeNoya, Jeremy Daniel
Destefani, Brooke Carlyse
Dilley, Jennie Mae Giorgianna
Dolson, Kimberly Elaine
Donovan, Tiffany Gayle
Dossett, Patrick Collins
Drake, Scotty Allen
Dreadfulwater, Andrew
Droz, Dena Marie
Droz, Mark Allen
Droz, Silvia Marie
Ducote, Howard Stanislaus, Jr.
Duffey, Angela Lois
Duffey, Ann Estelle
Dupont, Michelle
Eastham, Erika Dawn
Eaves, Joseph Mongrain
Elizarde, Roman Jordan
Elliott, Marcia Ann
Ellis, Amanda Michelle
Ellis, Diana Marie
Ellis, Frederick Edward
Ellis, Melissa Dawn
Englund, Michael William
Enos, LaRonda O’Dell
Epley, Cameron Charles
Eppinette, Nathaniel Thomas
Fee, Dustin Prefontaine
Fetterhoff, Mary L
Fields, Samantha Nicole
Filener, Tobias James
Finneran, Edward Powers, III
Fish, Cheri Lynn
Fish, Sarah Ann
Fitch, Marcy Marjo
Fletcher, Paul James
Forbes, Michael Steven
Franklin, Karen Kay
Freeman, Katie Rebecca
Frick, Morin Mae
Fulps, Elizabeth
Gandee, Thomas Patrick
Garcia, Joshua Allen
Gentry, Joseph E.
Gentry, Brandon Scott
Gervais, Dara Christin
Gervais, Elisa Baird
Gervais, Gabrielle Laura
Gervais, Roy Charles
Glory, Beverly Ann
Goad, Bryan Earl
Gogugloe, Mark Wayne
Gokey, Tyrone Stuart
Goodell, Laura Lea
Goodman, Shelby Leigh
Gordon, Melissa Jo
Graves, Gary
Graves, Simon Francis
Gray, Brett Raoul
Greer, Courtney Catharine
Gustavus, Amy Lynn
Haines, Sharon Jean
Hamilton, Susan Rose
Harder, Vanessa Kennedy
Hardin, Brenda Sue
Harris, Michael Leon
Harrison, Demaris Ann
Harrison, Mykel Renee
Hashbarger, Gennie Lou Ellen
Hashbarger, Kevin Ray
Hausner, Dava Sue
Hays, Deborah Lynn
Hazen, David Joseph
Hedges, Tyler Lee
Heftin, Benjamin Van
Hempel, Mary (Maria)
Henderson, Belinda Kaye
Hendrickson, Sharon Kay
Hernandez, Tiffany Cassandra
Hickman, Mark Ernest, Jr.
High, Luther Lee
Highfield, Derrick, Michael
Hildebrand, John Jeffery
Hill, Debra Ann
Hopkins, Ashley Marie
Hopkins, Lynn Houston
Hopper, Jess Amos
Howard, Janita Dawn
Howell, Elijah Anthony Bear
Hunter, Shelby Lynn
Hutson, Tonya Marie
Jackson, James Kiefer
Jackson, Melissa Dawn
Jacobs, Jonathan Michael Wade
Jake, Mary Catherine
Johnson, LF
Johnson, Marla Louise
Johnson, Natalie Jeanette
Johnson, Scott David
Johnson, Susan Carol
Jones, Brandon Gene
Jones, Frankie Michelle
Jones, Heather Leonna
Jones, Mark Bradley
Jones, Michael Bartholomew
Jones, Zachary Ryan
Kaniatobe, Beth Ann
Kastl, Gary Lee

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MEMBERSHIP HELP

Kays, Jerome Otto
Kays, Katherine Magdelene
Kemble, William Allen
Kemerling, Wilma Mae
Kennedy, Amanda Kie
Kenworthy, Edmund Kennedy, II
Kerr, Rebecca Dawn
Kinkaid, Rainey
Kirk, Thomas Christopher
Knispel, Marta Jane
Labadie, Kenton Aaron
Laurie, Betty Jean
Layman, Christopher Steven
Layman, Mark Steven
Le Sage, Katherine Suzanne
Le Sage, Megan Jane
Lee, Richard W.
Leonard, Donna Jean
Letterman, Perry Hudson
LeVan, Sarah Elizabeth
Lewis, Deborah Sue
Lockett, Kristen Belle
Logan, Phillip Earl
Long, Richard Martin
Lovett, Brian Glen
Lovett, Rachel Ann
Lynn, Amberly Kristine
Macom, Jason Matthew
Maker, Elizabeth Mae
Malone, Marcella Lynn
Manzer, Deborah Carlyse
Marcesano, Kathryn Michele
Marcesoni, Cirillo Carlton
Markham, Joseph Lee
Marling, Michael James
Marshall, Frederick Eugene
Marshall, Joshua James
Marshall, William Charles
Martin, Tracy Leon
Mason, Margaret Rose
Mastramico, Michael Edward
Mathis, Christopher Ted
Maya, Paul Jean, Jr.
McAnally, Jeremy Scott
McCarty, Elizabeth Anne
McCarty, Linda Christine
McClain, Terrence Lee
McCoy, Michael Stephen
McDonald, Paul Thomas
McFarland, Joseph Allen
McGrevey, Lynn Rebecca
McKee, Glenn Justin
McKinney, Timothy Carl
McNiel, Robert Justin
Merceal, Jo Ann
McRoner, Brian Keith
Messer, Robert Gregory
Miller, Kortney Nichole
Monday, Shelley Rynae
Moore, Steven Lyle
Morrison, Jason Matthew
Morrison, Jeffrey Eugene
Morse, Wahlell
Murray, Dana Sue
Myatt, Judith Eileen
Myers, Leslie Halycon
Myers, Vanessa Dawn
Neff, Joseph Wilson
Nemeck, Tommi Sue
Noble, Scott Howard
Noe, Jeffrey Steven
Norris, Brandy Francis
Nunn, Kathryn Rose
Oberly, Jennifer Lauren
O'Brien, James Richard
O'Neal, Jessica Ann
Overton, Jasmine Rose
Palmer, Lela Mae
Pangburn, John Randolph
Panther, John Clark
Parent, Robert Arthur
Park, Ben Wallace
Park, Brandon Shane
Parsons, Anthony Glenn
Paschen, Elizabeth Maria
Patrick, Alecia Michele
Paul, Catherine Sue
Peace, Everett Wayne
Perez, Anthoni Len
Perrier, Joseph Richard
Perrier, Richard Keith
Perigo, Michael Lee
Persinger, Amanda Leigh
Petersen, Steven Catherine
Ponca, Felicia Alexandra
Potter, Karen Ann
Potter, Philip Craig
Potter, Heath Acri
Potter, Melissa Suzanne
Pratt, Cassie Kip
Pratt, Kacie Renae
Pratt, Vicki Lea
Primeaux, Duncan Lamont
Pruett, Melanie Dawn
Pryor, Antwine Dain
Pryor, John Roscoe
Pulliam, Jennifer Ann
Radford, Martha Ann
Ray, Summer NaKellie
Ready, Earl Thomas, Jr.
Ready, Jesse Dean
Ready, Kihakah Andress
Ready, Noah Lee
Ready, Samuel Dean
Ready, Samuel Stroud
Reber, Todd Eric
RedCorn, Joshua Douglas
RedCorn, Moira Ambrose
RedCorn, Yancey Garfield
Redding, Veronica Leigh
Reedy, Heather Diane
Renfro, Melissa Sue
Revard, Harmony Michelle
Revard, Susan Jean
Riley, Ashley Rae
Riley, Vicki Louise
Robedaux, Sheryl Ann
Robertson, Quentin Mark
Robinson, Bobette Louise
Rodriquez, Vera Elizabeth
Rucker, Amanda Anne
Ruetther, Nan
Salinas, Audra Lois
Sauls, Barbara Kay
Schoonover, Scott Douglas
Schroeder, Holly Marie
Schubert, Kimmie Gail
Schultz, Cody Wayne
Scott, Cassandra Colleen
Scott, Karen Rose
Seed, Skylar Machia
Sharp, Cynthia Pearl
Sharp, Krista Dawn
Sheppard, James Marshall
Sims, Brittney Azlee
Sitterly, Lena Renae
Small, Cathy Dean
Smith, Antone Edward
Smith, Francesca Ann
Smith, Jayme Renay
Smith, Kaleb Scott
Smith, Katie Elizabeth
Smith, Kyle James
Smith, Roy Edward
Snively, Ralph Albert, III
Sno'dgrass, Jordan James
Sorenson, LeRoy Jeffrey
Spinks, David Wayne
Spitzer, Michael Wayne
Stabler, Lindsay Marie
Stanridge, Roger Lee
Steeprock, Bianca Nicole
Stewart, Scott Harold
Sullivan, Holly Ann
Supernaw, William James, IV
Swaffar, Chelsea, Rae
Sweeden, William, Joseph
Tallchief, Ashley Maria
Taylor, Kelli Jae
Taylor, Natassia Danielle
Tecumseh, Amos Samuel, Jr.
Thomas, Meghan Hillary
Thomason, Mary Ann
Thompson, James Dallas
Thornton, Mary Rebecca
Timmis, Terri Lynn
Tinker, Jill
Tinker, Pamela Ruby
Trumbly, Candice E
Turner, Charles Joseph
Turner, Nathan Eli
Tusler, Rachel Ferron
Tuttle, JuaKein Nichole Chantese
Tuttle, William WhiteWolf
Virden, Jennifer Dawn
Wade, Jason Boyd
Wade, Jeffrey Robert
Wade, Joshua Lee
Walker, Robert Lee, Jr.
Waller, Catherine Jean
Wangenheim, Sean Michael
Ward, Jeremy Rick
Watts, Rachael Ann
Watts, Timothy Wayne
Weathers, Aiden Sioux
Webb, Rose Marie
Weese, Jennifer Lynn
West, Gabriel Franklin
White, Robin Lee
Whitehorn, Penny Lynn
Whitehorn, Sango Elvertus
Williams, Jill Ann
Willis, Natalie Diane
Wills, Monette Anne
Wilson, Andrew Thomas
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Wilson, Monica M.
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Winnett, Earl Printon
Wolffsvoice, Max Joseph, Jr.
Wolffsvoice, Peggy Sue
Wondergem, Diana Routh
Wood, Timothy Dale
Woodard, John Gill
Woods, Anthony Joseph
Wyrick, John Russell
Osage chosen for prestigious writer’s conference in Seattle

Ruby Murray chosen to participate in 2010 EDGE Professional Development Program for Writers

Ruby Murray, an Osage writer, has been chosen to participate in the 2010 EDGE Professional Development Program for Writers in Seattle, Wash.

She is among 16 artists that were selected by a panel of four arts professionals to participate in the program, according to a prepared release. The program will be a hands-on, interactive curriculum that includes instruction by professionals in the field, as well as specialized presentations, panel discussions and assignments.

Murray, who lives in Cathlamet, Wash., writes about culture, loss, and resilience. Her work has appeared in Oregon Humanities Magazine, the Osage News, as well as various magazines and anthologies. Her essay, Beyond Chance, was read on Oregon Public Radio.

The program aims to provide artists with the relevant and necessary entrepreneurial skills to achieve their personal career goals and with the opportunity to develop peer support and exchange, according to the release. Since 2003 the program has served 398 filmmakers, visual artists and writers.

Once Murray finishes the program she will present her work at a reception held at Jack Straw Productions on March 26 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Jack Straw Productions is located at 4261 Roosevelt Way NE in Seattle.

For more information about the EDGE program, contact Nirmala Singh-Brinkman at (206) 467-8734 or e-mail her at nirmala@artisttrust.org.

LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

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WARRIOR TO SERVE

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prefer to read it online... We do have an obligation and responsibility to serve our readers in the best way possible.”

Congress votes on Editorial Board nominees after interviews

Nine members of Congress voted via secret ballot during the Special Session held after Lamsam and Warrior’s interviews with Warrior receiving six votes and Lamsam three. The Editorial Board appointments are being chosen according to the Nation’s Independent Press Act of 2008, which was put into effect following last year’s Supreme Court decision regarding the bill sponsored by Congresswoman Faren Revard Anderson.

Three people will serve on the board with the Congress selecting one person, the chief selecting the second and the chosen two board members will choose the third one.

It’s unclear what process will take place once the third board member is chosen. Congressional legal counsel Loyed “Trey” Gill was out of the office Friday.

For the Editorial Board, Chief Gray is selecting Denny McAuliffe, a Washington Post editor and former University of Montana journalism professor, who also served on the Editorial Council selected by Gray while the Supreme Court case was in litigation and after a 2009 independent press bill sponsored by Congresswoman Shannon Edwards was tabled by the government operations committee last April.
Osage Data’s Berbon Hamilton named to Pawhuska Chamber’s board of directors

Benny Polacco
Osage News

Osage Data General Manager Berbon Hamilton has been named to the Pawhuska Chamber of Commerce board of directors. He will serve a three-year term on the board with eight other members for the chamber which focuses on the area’s business entities and economic development.

Hamilton attended his first chamber meeting as a board member on Feb. 16. As part of his new post, he will join fellow board members who work with 141 area businesses and individuals (both Native and non-Native American) who are chamber members.

“I was excited” he said, adding he believes his board post “could expand my leadership.”

Hamilton, who holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration with an emphasis in management from Haskell Indian Nations University, has been with Osage Data since 2006 and previously worked as an accountant for Osage Enterprise, Inc.

At Osage Data, Hamilton works with nine employees and they work with several business partners in providing information technology solutions. Last year Osage Data became part of the Osage Limited Liability Company which is handling business development opportunities for the Nation and oversees its other revenue-generating entities such as the Gift Shop and the Palace Grocery Store.

“It’s pretty exciting, now we’re trying to do a lot more,” Hamilton said of working with Osage LLC officials including CEO Carol Leese. Hamilton also gets to travel more often and meet with other top business and government officials.

“As part of the LLC, Hamilton said Osage Data has grown from working with projects obtained through a New Mexico-based company it co-owns to working with five different companies.

Osage Data is one of 13 Native American tribes or Native American-affiliated organizations who are part-owners of Intertribal Information Technology Company, LLC, which is based in Albuquerque. Hamilton sits on the board for the IITC, which was founded in 2003 and focuses on providing Native American communities employment opportunities through data management and technology services to the U.S. Department of Defense.

While working with the IITC, Osage Data workers were responsible for working with military field manuals which had staffers handling as much as 25,000 pages per month, Hamilton said, adding some of the manuals are “as big as a table.”

As part of offering IT services, Osage Data works with computer network systems as well as telephone systems. In the future, Osage Data plans to work with construction management service companies and professional ones which focus on computer programming, Hamilton said.

In working with the Pawhuska chamber, Hamilton said he will be helping with volunteer events this year including the National Indian Taco Championship which is slated for May in downtown Pawhuska. Hamilton was nominated for the chamber’s board by its executive director Mike McCartney who was out of the office for comment before this story was printed.

Osage Million Dollar Elm Casino donates for Pawhuska chamber’s gala, remainder of contribution for skate park

Osage News

The Osage Million Dollar Elm Casino has donated $2,500 to the Pawhuska Chamber of Commerce for its annual fundraiser gala and auction scheduled next month and also donated the remainder of its $11,000 contribution for the Pawhuska skate park project.

Mike McCartney, the chamber’s executive director, accepted the contributions from the MDEC on Feb. 4. He said the donation for the gala “helps our budget tremendously,” which will be held at 6 p.m. March 26 at the Elks Lodge.

We need a cutline. We need a cutline. We need a cutline. We need a cutline. We need a cutline. We need a cutline. We need a cutline.
Osage student dancers win second at Youth Powwow

By Avis Ballard, JOM Coordinator

Native American youth traveled from all directions to attend the Battle of the Plains Youth Powwow on Jan. 23, 2010, hosted by Operation Eagle of Bartlesville Schools. This event is a competition between the Operation Eagle student dancers against all other JOM/Title VII organizations. Groups came from many areas including: Royal Valley (Mayetta, KS), Parch Creek (Atmore, AL), Eagles in Flight (Oklahoma City), Shawnee Schools, Owasso Schools and the Osage Nation.

For the second year in a row, Osage Nation Johnson O’Malley (JOM) students went as a group to this event and won 2nd place in the group category. Over 30 students represented the Osage JOM program from Hominy, Pawhuska, Shidler, Skiatook and Woodland schools. These dancers competed in several categories including: cloth, straight, Northern traditional, grass, fancy feather, fancy shawl and jingle.

Well-dressed children in the powwow arena reflect the love, pride and sacrifice of their parents trying to preserve an endangered culture. It is not an easy task for them to obtain or make their children’s traditional regalia. All of the clothing and regalia is hand-crafted and tailored to fit the dancer. It can be a constant struggle to keep up with a child that needs new clothes every time they have a growth spurt.

This youth powwow is an all-day event for the dancers and their families. The dancers must participate in grand entry and compete in their category in order to gain points for their team. The team with the most dancers and contest winners earn the top spot and bragging rights as the Battle of the Plains champions. The powwow committee presented ribbons to individual winners and trophies to the group winners. The students representing the Osage JOM program also received hooded sweat-shirts and Walmart gift cards as reward for their participation in the cultural occasion.

The Osage Nation JOM dancers competed and won 2nd place at the Battle of the Plains youth powwow with 6 individual first place winners, 3 second place winners and 2 third place winners. Over 30 Osage JOM dancers and their families traveled to Dewey, OK to compete in this event. Parents and powwow staff felt great pride and joy watching the young people dance together and continue traditions important to the Native American culture. The Osage Nation JOM program plans to continue participating in this annual event in order to promote cultural pride and awareness to their students. Please contact Avis Ballard at 918-287-5545 for more information about this event or the Johnson O’Malley program.

Chief Gray kicks off Town Hall meeting series

-Town Hall series covers six focus areas in the Nation’s 25-year Strategic Plan

Osage News

Osage Nation Principal Chief Jim Gray kicked off his Town Hall Series focusing on the Nation’s 25-year Strategic Plan, its accomplishments and proposed initiatives for this year on Feb. 16 in Pawhuska.

Six areas of focus in the Nation’s strategic plan are economic development; cultural preservation; education; health and safety; minerals and natural resources; and governance and justice, said Gray who will speak at nine meetings in the town hall series. Gray discussed the Nation’s 2008 and 2009 accomplishments and goals for this year during Pawhuska’s meeting and conducted a question and answer session afterward.

For example, Gray noted the Nation’s Million Dollar Elm Casino enterprise generated its highest ever earnings in 2008 and its construction projects became debt-free that year as well. It is also the same year the Osage Nation Congress passed legislation creating the Osage Limited Liability Company which is the economic development arm of the Nation and focuses on non-gaming revenue opportunities for the tribe.

This year Gray said the Nation will focus on creating a Department of Commerce to recruit new businesses to the reservation.

Also this year Gray noted that the Nation will implement a tribal sex offender registry which will notify the community of registered offenders living in the area. The tribe also plans to open an Osage Energy Office. The energy office will focus on increasing educational opportunities on energy matters, he said.

About 30 people attended the initial town hall meeting at the Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center which provided attendees with copies of a slideshow presentation shown with Gray’s remarks and handbooks of the Nation’s Constitution and the 25-year strategic plan.

Other town hall meeting sites include Bartlesville (Feb. 18); Tulsa (Feb. 27); Oklahoma City (Feb. 28); Skiatook (March 1); Hominy (March 2); Grayhorse Village (March 4); Dallas (March 6); Houston (March 7); and Northridge, Calif. (March 13). For more information, contact the Osage Nation’s Executive Branch at (918) 287-5555.
Cherokees break ground on the tribe’s eighth casino in Ramona

By Benny Polacca
Osage News

RAMONA, Okla. – The Cherokee Nation broke ground Jan. 21 on its eighth Cherokee Casino in southern Washington County along U.S. Highway 75 between Bartlesville and Tulsa. When the casino opens later this year, competition for gambling patrons with the Osage Million Dollar Elm Casino west of Bartlesville will start.

Amid cloudy skies and a muddy ground due to rain earlier that morning, Cherokee Nation officials, members of the region’s news media and area residents huddled under a canopy at the site where details of the forthcoming gaming venue were shared.

“We have a very simple message today and it’s about jobs,” Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chad Smith said at the site, which is less than a mile north of Ramona and 18 miles south of downtown Bartlesville. “This facility will bring about 100 jobs to this locale which is so important not only in these economic times but for the growth of the Nation.”

Cherokee gaming officials say construction is underway and the Cherokee Casino Ramona is slated to open in early summer. When its doors open, the area’s residents and visitors will have two gaming choices between this casino and the MDEC Bartlesville casino located about seven miles west of the city with nearly 36,000 residents.

It’s unknown how much of an impact the Cherokee Casino Ramona will have on the MDE Bartlesville casino’s business, but MDE CEO Neil Cornelius said casino officials are “strategizing, so we feel we don’t have a big impact.”

This past fall, the MDE installed a new slot management system on its casinos’ machines which officials will use to collect data that will be used in future business decision making, Cornelius said. “We are planning future operations and amenities for the Nation that will counteract any impact.”

Cornelius said the MDE will also focus on its marketing strategies which include targeting the casino’s best players and loyal customers.

Size-wise, the MDE Bartlesville casino, which sits on 132 acres on the eastern edge of the Osage Reservation, will still be larger than the Cherokee Casino Ramona when it opens. Built in 2006, the MDE Bartlesville casino is about 45,000 square-feet; offers about 600 electronic games and six blackjack tables and two poker tables; and employs about 215 people.

The Cherokee Casino Ramona will be 10,000 square feet and will initially feature more than 200 electronic games and concession-type food and beverage offerings, according to Cherokee Nation Entertainment which operates the tribe’s gaming ventures. The casino will be built on a 20-acre site, which was chosen “because of its strategic positioning between the two metropolitan areas and the convenient highway access,” CNE stated.

“It’s really a huge success for this area,” David Stewart, president of the CNE said at the Jan. 21 event. He said the CNE plans to start a working relationship with Ramona (2008 population: 581) as it has with the seven other communities with Cherokee Casinos.

Chief Smith said jobs at the Ramona casino will have starting pay at $9.25 per hour with fringe benefits for its employees who “can learn the industry – the hospitality industry – and begin to grow with it.”

Bartlesville will be the second large-city gaming market where the MDE vies for customers in Northeastern Oklahoma. Its largest casino immediately north of downtown Tulsa competes with the nearby Cherokee Nation Hard Rock Hotel & Casino and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation’s River Spirit Casino.
Save the Date! Local Events Calendar

FEBRUARY

February 21
Announcement of Osage Shareholders Association Meeting
David Landrum Community Center, Pawhuska, Ok
Starts at 1 p.m.
Contact (918) 349-2396 or osage@totelcsi.com

February 27
Townhall Series: Tulsa
Osage Million Dollar Elm Casino, 951 W. 36th Street, Tulsa, Ok
Starts at 1 p.m.
Contact (918) 287-5555

February 28
Townhall Series: Oklahoma City
Crowne Plaza Hotel, 2945 Northwest Expressway, Oklahoma City, Ok
Starts at 1 p.m.
Contact (918) 287-5555

MARCH

March 1
"Funding Tribal Projects Through Corporate and Private Foundation Grants" 2 Day Workshop
Cherokee Nation Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, Tulsa, Ok
Starts at 9 a.m.
Contact Lu Kindblade and Associates, LLC or call (580) 491-8357

March 2
Townhall Series: Skiatook
Skiatook Public Library, 316 E. Rogers, Skiatook, Ok
Starts at 5 p.m.
Contact (918) 287-5555

March 4
Townhall Series: Grayhorse Community Building
Grayhorse Indian Village, Grayhorse Community Building
Starts at 5 p.m.
Contact (918) 287-5555

March 5
Osage Nation WIC will be hosting a Health Fair in Wynona
Wynona School
Starts at 9 a.m.
Contact Debbie Simpson (918) 287-5368

March 11
4th Annual Osage Nation Sovereignty Day Celebration
Pawhuska, Oklahoma
Contact (918) 287-5555

March 12
Osage Nation WIC will be hosting a Health Fair in Shidler
Shidler School
Starts at 9 a.m.
Contact (918) 287-5518

March 16
Revard Political Rallies-Edmond
All candidates running for Osage office are invited to speak, and take questions from the crowd.
All Osage tribal members are invited to attend.
VFW Post 4939, 116 E. Cambell, Edmond, Oklahoma 73034
Starts 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Contact Jim Ryan (210) 804-0687 or jimr812@peoplepc.com

MAY

May 8
Osage News Debate for Principal Chief and Assistant Principal Chief Candidates
Wah Zha Zhi Cultural Center
Starts at 2 p.m.
Contact (918) 287-5668 or email ctoehay@osagetribe.org

May 9
Osage News Debate for Osage Nation Congress Candidates
Wah Zha Zhi Cultural Center
Starts at 2 p.m.
Contact (918) 287-5668 or email ctoehay@osagetribe.org

JUNE

June 7
Announcement of Osage Shareholders Association Meeting
David Landrum Community Center
Starts at 1 p.m.
Contact (918) 349-2396 or email osage@totelcsi.com

JULY

July 16-18
58th Tulsa Powwow
Spirit Bank Event Center, Tulsa, Ok.
Contact Robert Anquoe (918) 671-2417
Births and Celebrations

Hinman anniversary

Family and friends would like to say happy anniversary to Kimberly and Jon Lee Hinman. The couple’s anniversary is on February 22. Congratulations.

Happy birthday!

The family of Andrea Josette Gleba would like to wish her a Happy 43rd birthday. Andrea is the mother of Cecelia 7, Michael Jr. 4, and Angelina 3. Her parents are from Pawhuska and are descendants of the Penn and Pitts clans. She now resides in Phoenix, Ariz., with her husband Michael Gleba. Andrea will be taking the children back for a visit to Pawhuska in June so be sure and look out for her and the children.

Happy birthday!


Happy birthday!

Friends and family would like to wish Kimberly Pradmore Hinman who will celebrate her birthday on February 14 and Sara Cass Boyce who will celebrate her birthday on February 16 a very happy birthday.

Happy birthday!


Happy birthday!

The families of Allen Shannon and Elnora Shannon would like to wish them a Happy Birthday on Feb. 25 as well as Robert Sisk whose birthday is on Feb. 24. We love you.

OMDE DONATIONS

This year’s chamber gala and dinner is themed “Diamond in the Rough” and will feature a silent and live auction with items up for grabs including art work, dish-ware and trips. Reservations are required to attend this event. For more information and gala reservations, call the Chamber of Commerce at (918) 287-1208. Individual tickets are $35 and a table for eight people is $500.

Contributions for the Pawhuska skate park still being accepted

Also on Feb. 4, the MDEC donated $6,000 toward the Pawhuska skate park which was recently completed. The $6,000 is the remainder of the casino’s $11,000 contribution with $5,000 donated before construction started last fall.

McCartney sits on the Make it Happen in Pawhuska committee which is in charge of the skate park’s fundraising. He said donations are still being accepted for the skate park with just under $25,000 needed to finish paying for the construction.

The Make it Happen in Pawhuska committee was awarded a $25,000 grant last spring by the Tony Hawk Foundation to help build the skatepark. The nonprofit was established in 2002 by its professional skater namesake to promote and provide funding for high-quality skate parks in low-income areas nationwide, according to its Web site.

The foundation also reviewed and approved the skatepark design. The Pawhuska project is one of 22 projects selected in 2009 by Hawk’s foundation for grant funding out of 72 applicants.

For more information on the Make It Happen in Pawhuska committee, contact Mike McCartney at (918) 287-1208 or co-chairperson Cindy Helmer at Pawhuska’s First National Bank.
WINS PROGRAM

WINS operates under the direction of professional staff at American University along with the advice and counsel of an advisory board composed of several American Indian professionals throughout Indian Country and Washington’s metropolitan area.

We are looking for motivated people who have the heart and spirit to support American Indians, Alaskan Natives and Native Hawaiians! WINS will challenge your mind and change your life. If you have any questions and to view a list of criteria for the application, please visit our website at www.american.edu/wins or contact our office at wins@american.edu or (202) 895-5943.

You can apply online at http://www1.american.edu/wins/apply.html.

For more information contact: Director, Washington Internships for Native Students (WINS), Washington Semester AI/NA Program, American University, Capital Building, Room 114, 4400 Massachusetts, Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20016-8083 USA. Telephone number is (202) 895-4879, or fax number is (202) 895-4882 and cell number is (202) 445-5211. You can also email soto@american.edu.

Osage Nation Language Orthography Chart

Primaries – Osage Vowels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(\Lambda)</td>
<td>'awe sound' as in the word awesome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(\Omega)</td>
<td>long e sound as in the word sleep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(\alpha)</td>
<td>short e sound as in the word egg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(\lambda)</td>
<td>short u sound as in the word buh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(\alpha)</td>
<td>long o sound as in the word oh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(U)</td>
<td>'oo' sound as in the word boot</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nasal Sound

\(\wedge\) nasal sound

Diphthongs

\(\Delta\) blend of \(\Lambda\) + \(\Omega\) + \(^\wedge\) = \(\Delta\)
\(\Omega\) blend of \(\alpha\) + \(\Omega\) + \(^\wedge\) = \(\Omega\)
\(\alpha\) blend of \(\alpha\) + \(\Omega\) + \(^\wedge\) = \(\alpha\)

Modifiers – modify primary sounds

\(\sigma\) guttural X sound, like scraping your throat with air
\(\epsilon\) english S
\(\epsilon\) english H
\(\epsilon\) english W
\(\epsilon\) english L
\(\epsilon\) english M
\(\epsilon\) english N
\(\epsilon\) english Z

Between

\(\Phi\) between the 'P' and 'B'
\(\Phi\) between the 'K' and 'G'
\(\Phi\) between the 'T' and 'D'

Blends

\(\wedge\) blend of 'T' an 'H' as in the word these
\(\sigma\) blend of 'S' an 'H' as in the word ship
\(\sigma\) blend of 'C' an 'H' as in the word ship
\(\sigma\) blend of 'Z' an 'H' as in the word treasure
\(\Phi\) blend of 'T' an 'S' together
\(\Phi\) blend of 'P' medial and 'R'
\(\Phi\) blend of 'S' an 'K'
\(\Phi\) blend of 'K' an 'Y'
\(\Phi\) blend of 'H' an 'Y'
\(\Phi\) blend of 'S' an 'D'

This is not an alphabet. The symbols represent sound only. Practice writing and pronouncing these symbols everyday. For more information, please contact the Osage Nation Language Program at (918) 287-5305 (Pawhuska), (918) 642-3185 (Fairfax), (918) 287-5583 (Hominy), (918) 287-5547 (Edmond), and (918) 287-5547 (Skiatook) or visit us on the Web at http://www.osagetribe.org/language.
Osage citizens encouraged to fill out 2010 Census Bureau questionnaire

April 1st is Census 2010 Day and the Census Bureau is encouraging tribes to inform their citizens of the importance of the Census for tribes. The Osage Nation joins with the Census Bureau to encourage all Osage citizens to fill out their questionnaires and return them as soon as possible. It is important that every Osage citizen is counted. A number of federal agencies use the census data to provide services or funding to tribes.

The questionnaire is a simple ten question form. Question 9 on the census form asks about the person’s race. A response can be one or more races, and if American Indian is checked, a space is provided to enter the enrolled or principal tribe of the person. It is important to list Osage even if a member of other races or a descendant of other tribes. For more information visit the Census 2010 website at www.census2010.gov.

Obituaries

Buddy Mike Hall

Buddy Mike Hall, longtime resident of the Burbank and Shidler communities, passed early Wednesday morning, December 30, 2009 at his home in Burbank. He was 54.

Buddy was born April 22, 1955 in Ponca City, the son of Alfred Hall and Frieda (Frank) Hall. He attended the Burbank and Shidler Schools, graduating from Shidler High School in 1974. He was married to Pauline Leon on August 21, 1999 in Ponca City.

Buddy was employed as a truck driver and his enjoyments included tinkering, spending time with his family and friends and walking. Buddy never met a stranger and was known as a laid back and gentle man. He was of the Catholic Faith.

He is survived by his wife, Pauline, of the home; his former wife Shirley Jean Rhea of Kaw City; 5 children, Michael Hall, of the home; Teresa Gorr and husband, Scott, of Shidler; Shannon Vogele and husband Jason, of Shidler; Jerrod Leon of Hominy and LaTasha Leon of Norman; 6 grandchildren, Lindsey Nicole Hall, Brandalyn Torie Vogele, Cassadee Jean Vogele, Tyler Gorr, Kaleb Gorr and Darion Boston. He is preceded in death by his parents; one sister, Sally Hall Seeliger and one brother, Alfred Francis Hall III.

Buddy’s online guestbook may also be signed at: www.hunsakerwootenfuneralhome.com

Kenneth Cecil Logan

Kenneth Cecil Logan, age 97 of Houston, Texas, passed away Monday, January 11, 2010 following a lengthy illness.

He was born February 29, 1912, in Burbank, Oklahoma, a son of William Henry Logan and Ruby George Logan. They have preceded him in death.

He attended Burbank High School and was a member of the Osage Tribe. He was employed with Phillips Petroleum in Borger, Texas, retiring in the 1970’s.

He is preceded in death by his wife of 64 years, Pauline Bland Logan; son, Jerry Kenneth Logan; siblings, Perry Edmond Logan, Marguerite Bell Logan Bland and Dorothy Mae Hodges.

Survivors include nieces, Betty Jean Bland Gentz of Houston, Texas, Linda Kay Hodges Hamilton of Augusta, Kansas and nephew Kenneth Eugene Hodges of Hot Springs, Arkansas; numerous great nieces and nephews; and great-great nieces and nephews.

Graveside services were held Saturday, January 16 at Fairfax Cemetery, Fairfax, Oklahoma.

Arrangements by Blackwell Woodforest Funeral Home, Houston, Texas and Tonkawa Funeral Home, Tonkawa, Oklahoma.

Correction

The Osage News misidentified Athen Cheatham and the late Marcell West in Cheatham’s birthday announcement in the January edition of the Osage News. The Osage News regrets the error.
Osage sovereignty is alive and as old as Osage consciousness; as strong as the Osage will; and as nurturing and intelligent as the Osage heart and mind. Since the ratification of our Constitution, the Osage Nation is moving forward everyday and that is why I have declared March 11th as our annual celebration of Osage Sovereignty Day.

Uniquely Osage

Osage Sovereignty Day is designated as our commemoration of the ratification of our new Constitution, a uniquely Osage document. No one knows, as well as the Osage people, the hardships and trials we have suffered in the one hundred years of a federally-imposed Tribal Council style of government. Yet we were able to work within the system to finally recognize our government and put the future of the Osage Nation back in Osage hands.

With all reorganized governments it is a new way of governing requiring strength, wisdom, determination, and discipline to grow strong institutions that will sustain the Osage Nation for another hundred years. We are ever mindful and respectful of the challenges our Ancestor’s overcame. We know each day counts in this bold experiment in modern tribal government transformation. With each day, we create a historical foundation allowing future generations of Osages to reach ever higher.

We celebrate our Sovereignty on March 11th by gathering together to create common memories, shared visions, and mutual aspirations. We will hear about the state of our Nation, create new friendships and renew old acquaintances, share the fellowship and blessings of a traditional meal, and showcase some of our finest cultural representatives. We will gather and commemorate our achievements in sovereignty and celebrate what makes us Osage.

Confidence in the Future

This year, despite some setbacks, we have advanced further than ever before and continue to make great strides in multiple ways. Where our progress has been delayed, or impeded, we will develop new strategies for overcoming those roadblocks. Be assured; I have not and will not rest in finding new and meaningful ways to overcome the everyday and long-term challenges to advancing the interests of our great Nation.

During these early years of our new government, we are bravely asserting our rights in ways our Ancestors never dreamed. Unfortunately, making headway also makes waves.

Rest assured we are not pursuing radical exercise of our rights. We have more cooperative arrangements with federal, state, and local governments for the delivery of crucial services than ever before. Our strategy is to play our appropriate and key role in furthering our development of services to our people and economic opportunities for our Nation and we continue to fight to hold our place at that table.

Protection of our reservation status is a prime example of the assertion of our sovereignty and undoubtedly one of my highest priorities in advancing Osage interests. I have assembled a strong team to engage in the highest levels of a complex, multi-faceted, multi-phased battle in the federal courts, in the political arena and in the hearts and minds of the public. Protection of our reservation status means protection of our permanent homeland, a fundamental right of the Osage people guaranteed by the federal government. Protection of our reservation also means we can develop our economy as quickly and efficiently as possible, without having to go through the extra step of putting surface lands into trust on our reservation for economic development and gaming purposes. Our Ancestors fought for this reservation against near insurmountable odds and we continue that fight, because it is the right thing to do, to sustain the Osage Nation.

Celebrate Pride in Osage Heritage

I hope you can join us at this historically important and growing event. If you are able to attend, you can join in and learn about Osage history and traditional Osage games; see and participate in Osage arts and crafts fair; dance in or watch Osage Gourd Dancing as well as Osage men and women dancers in a pow-wow-style dance competitions; and learn about and partake in the traditional Osage culinary arts.
A Message from John D. Red Eagle Ki-he-kah O-wah-ta
—Assistant Principal Chief of Osage Nation

By John D. Red Eagle, Assistant Principal Chief

What Does the Future Hold

What does the future hold for the Osage Nation now that it has been 4 years since the ratification of Osage Nation Constitution? Many issues face our government today. In order to sustain our present benefits to the Osage people what direction should our government take? Presently many programs are being funded such as health care, education, elder care, and social services are just a few of the more than 30 programs being provided for the Osage people through the revenues that we receive. These revenues come from federal grants, tobacco tax and the gaming revenues. Currently there are two major lawsuits that the Osage Nation is involved in. First there is what is commonly referred to as the Trust/mismanagement case, second is the Reservation case against the State of Oklahoma Tax Commission. When the trust case is settled it will benefit the Osage Nation Shareholder. The Reservation case is pending a decision from the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals. If the reservation case is ruled in favor of the Osage Nation, the Osage Nation could benefit greatly in revenues from taxes and casino revenues. Clearly the tobacco tax and casino revenues are the Osage Nations primary source of revenue funding for programs.

Culture is a Part of the Osage

Direction, productivity and oversight of our assets are crucial in the upcoming months, and that is good cause for constituents to carefully evaluate who they select as their leaders in the upcoming election June 7th. Constituents must look at where each candidate identifies themselves in the Culture of the Osage. Do they practice and legibly speak the Osage Language? Will they pursue to learn if they can’t speak the language. After all we are an established Indian Tribe. Our language Director Mon-grain Lookout has said “if a culture doesn’t have language then it’s not a culture”. The Osage Nation Language Center offers language classes at different levels. The Cultural Center, under the direction of Mr. Vann Bighorse offers classes in all traditional songs, dress and articles used for traditional activities. I believe this is unquestionably vital to our Osage Nation to know where we came from, how we got here and what it means to be an Osage, to every person employed by the Osage Nation. Back in the 1870’s neither the Cherokee Indians nor European Whites wanted this land. We are presently living and working on land that was offered to the Osages to read-

A Healthy Nation is a Productive Nation

What is the future of health in the Osage Nation. The Osage Nation received a Tribal Management Grant from Indian Health Service in May of 2009. This grant is a feasibility study to gain knowledge if the Osage Nation has the capabilities of managing the IHS Clinic on the Osage Campus. There is a one year time frame to complete the study. The delay in moving forward was because letters of intent to the IHS Headquarters were not signed and delivered until Sept/Oct 2009. Work didn’t start until January 2010. If results of this study favor the Nation, then management of the clinic will be turned over to the Osage Nation. This will present more opportunities to serve Osages who live outside of the boundaries of the Osage Nation. Although they can’t be treated at the clinic the Nation will be able to provide pharmaceuticals, diabetic supplies, eyeglasses, hearing aids etc. to those members outside the boundaries of the Osage Nation. The Osage Nation will be able to collect third party revenues and invest the revenue back into the clinic with the intent of benefiting Osages. A serious initiative is needed for elder care for our people. There are elderly Osages who have come from other states to reside on the Reservation only to be sent back to where they came due to the fact the Osage Nation has no elder care facilities like assisted living facilities or nursing homes. The focus on health for our Osage People must be top priority for the Nation.

See you next month.

March 12th is the deadline for all submissions for the March issue of the Osage News
Mark it on your calendars!
Three reasons to have a top cop on the hill
Making the case for an Attorney General

By Raymond Red Corn, Osage Nation Congressman

When a new government forms, it is inevitable that boundaries will be tested until jurisprudence (court decisions) settle those issues one at a time. One way to keep every inter-branch squabble going to court and running up attorney fees is to create a position of Attorney General on the hill. There are at least a few good reasons to consider this option.

Settling differences between Congress and the Executive

Our short history as a tri-partite government might look very different if the Nation had a high-ranking, independent enforcement officer with a law degree. In each instance of serious disagreement so far, one branch has taken the other branch to civil court to settle the matter. This costs tens of thousands of dollars in legal fees, and in the case of the Independent

“...needs a new sheriff on the hill to keep the peace and restore order.”
–Raymond Red Corn
Osage Nation Congressman

Press Act, well over a year to settle. Three other cases are still being litigated at substantial expense.

The Executive Branch sought a legal opinion from the Osage court system in the case involving the Independent Press Act, and the courts ruled that without status as an injured party, no branch could ask the courts to settle legal disputes. A well-qualified Attorney General elected by the people could offer more immediate decisions, settling some issues without going to court. If a party is truly injured, remedy in the courts would still be an option.

Proper enforcement of Osage Nation laws

Over the past year the internet was clogged with public pleadings for the Congress to “do something!”, often in response to actions by the Executive branch that some citizens felt were illegal or unconstitutional. Similarly, the Executive branch brought action in Osage courts against members of Congress for actions alleged to be in violation of law or the constitution.

Congress does not enforce the law. We are a little like Neighborhood Watch; we have a telephone, it’s just that there is no policeman to call. If we see a crime committed, we have only one deterrent at our disposal, and it is most severe – removal from office. More importantly, enforcing the law is not part of our job description; writing the law is.

Attorneys General are often the lead law enforcement officer in a jurisdiction. If we had an Attorney General there would be someone to call, someone with the authority to determine whether a particular action was a violation of law or of the Constitution. An Attorney General could file charges in Osage courts and prosecute those charges. The Executive Branch would not have to go to civil court as a first option if future members of Congress exercising independence. First, the Attorney General should be elected by the people and second, such an election should be held in the off-year election starting in 2012, allowing proper attention to be paid to the selection. An Executive appointment/Congressional confirmation process could fill the position until then.

There is a bill now in the Government Operations committee (ONCA 09-16) that creates the position of Attorney General in the Osage Nation. I support this legislation, and believe the position of Attorney General to be an essential part of an effective government. Assuming a low-end rate of $250/hour for the attorneys now working for the Nation, hiring a full-time Attorney General could save over $350,000 each year if properly utilized, even if the salary were in the $125,000 range with benefits.

Some will say the addition of an Attorney General will “grow government”. Perhaps, but I believe adding an Attorney General will save money and accelerate the application of law, justice, and equitable relief. The Osage government needs a new sheriff on the hill to keep the peace and restore order. Let’s admit it, choose one, and move on.
Still time for First Congress to pass good law

By Shannon Edwards, Osage Nation Congresswoman

The end of the First Congress is fast approaching, and I am resolved to push for passage of my pending legislation. Some of this legislation has been tabled or pending in Congressional Committees for almost two years. That disturbs me. Passing legislation is THE job of Congress; meeting for ten minutes or ten hours without making thoughtful legislative decisions, and constantly battling the other branches of our government is not. My bills reflect my efforts to streamline government, establish better organizational structure, create uniformity, and remove roadblocks to critical decision-making. They include authorizing an Office of an Attorney General to provide advisory opinions and represent the Nation in certain matters, and standardizing board formation, responsibility and compensation. These bills provide solutions to the expensive power struggles, waste and overspending that currently plague the government. Other bills are amendments that strengthen existing laws, or are purely organizational. I know of no logical reason why Committees and Congress can’t work through these bills.

Protecting Our Constitutional Government

A constituent recently suggested Congress members should cease all contact with Executive Branch officials and insist on running government. I disagree, and wonder how those candidates who admittedly detest the three branch Osage government and regularly denounce it can with any good conscious ask the Osage people to vote them into office. As with every new government, missteps have happened, but it is critical that our officials push for progress within the constitutional framework and realize the enormous task of evolving the Osage government cannot happen successfully in a vacuum. Anything less should be unacceptable to the voters.

A Missed Chance for Meaningful Legislative Action

Recently, the Chief used his purported line item veto to strike certain words in a Congressional resolution, in effect increasing rather than lowering the amount of funds authorized to litigate with the Oklahoma Tax Commission. In my opinion our Chief improperly usurped Executive veto power, disregarding both his own proper role and that of Congress in the legislative process.

Although Congress seemed in agreement on the issue, some members of Congress favored only a public letter reprimand that seemed to me nothing more than stir-the-pot rhetoric. It solved nothing, so I declined to sign it. To me, the fix was through legislation, so I conceived, researched and filed a bill that clarified the appropriated sum and required systematic oversight of fees and expenses paid throughout the remainder of the case.

A certain Congressional member declined to support this legislation, but took my initial draft, filed it under his name, and began lobbying for passage, even though my bill was stronger and provided a restriction on future unbridled spending. This member not only refused to support this effort, he pushed to divide Congress. His bill passed on a day when Congressional rules were suspended to allow for a vote in the absence of a number of members.

Equally perplexing was several members’ abandonment of a pledge not to engage in yet another legal battle over the veto issue. Just after the vote on the bill, these members voted to hire an outside law firm to explore filing suit against the Chief. This seemed to me a telling admission they have no confidence in their own legislative powers, or in the content of the bills they pass.

In my view Congress missed a good opportunity come together and lead within our proper roles. This divided exercise and expensive outcome is disappointing testimony that Congress remains an immature body.

A Call for Qualified Candidates

The so-called split in the First Congress may be about blind support – but in my view not by the usual minority and not for actions favored by the Executive Branch. Rather, it comes as a result of some attempting to work diligently and promote progressive legislation, and others who gut those efforts in favor of playing politics, or who refuse in leadership positions to carry out their responsibilities. Some current members simply cannot put ideas ahead of pettiness and personalities. The result speaks for itself.

Although there are many frustrating challenges attendant to being an Osage Congress member, change has happened and will do so again in just a few months. There are certainly many Osages within and without the reservation area who can contribute and make this change positive. I encourage those constituents to seek office.

Going forward, I hope we have the opportunity to choose among individuals who have vision and are willing to train and learn, adhere to a process, utilize technology, and intelligently debate and vote on legislation to help the Nation progress. In my experience, those that don’t travel outside their comfort zone, that confuse meeting mandates with productivity, and who can’t compromise are not well suited for this job.

I hope that many of you with the right qualifications and motives will consider running for office. I welcome the opportunity to serve with you.
The will of the people should prevail

By Debra Atterberry, Osage Nation Congresswoman

We enjoy many blessings today, blessings our ancestors created through teamwork, common goals and vision. We have so much to be thankful for: our language, culture, reservation and mineral estate. None of it came easy. It took foresight, tenacity and a willingness to change. Today, we enjoy the fruits of their effort.

In the last five years, we demonstrated these same qualities in the reformation of our government and the creation of a 25-Year Strategic Plan. Through this process, our Osage people spoke, insisting that a system be established that rewards employees for their job performance.

Establishing and implementing such a system will be a blessing to our people and our employees. It will result in a high-performing workforce that meets the needs of our people.

Recently, my friend and colleague, Eddy Red Eagle, spoke of the need for a merit-based system.

“Our employees must know where they stand and what they are working on,” Congressman Red Eagle said.

Together, the Strategic Plan and merit-based system will give our employees assurance and direction while our people enjoy improved services and customer satisfaction.

Currently, the compensation system we use is the 2003 General Services Salary Schedule created by the United States government.

Not only is it outdated, it also rewards the low, mediocre and high performers the same. An employee is given pay increases based only on their years of experience with the Nation.

When I started working on this legislation, I thought we would be adopting a system that addresses measured job performance and compensation. However, upon further study, I’ve learned a successful, long-term merit-based system includes much more. We must create a merit-based system that embraces the current and future needs of our employee base.

Let’s suppose a woman – we will call her Jane – wants to lose weight and enjoy better health. In order for Jane to achieve her desired results and sustain them, she must change her entire lifestyle. She must change her way of thinking, eating to live rather than living to eat. She needs to reduce her level of stress and make better choices of what she eats and drinks. She must incorporate exercise and get plenty of rest. And as much as Jane may want to, she can’t just pick one or two options and expect to get lasting results. She has to do it all.

Like Jane, we must take a holistic approach in creating a merit-based system. We must develop a system that is fair and effective, one that motivates our employees to do the best job they possibly can.

This coming session, our Congress will have the opportunity to listen to our Osage people and make a merit-based system a reality for our Nation. They can put in effect a merit-based system that will endure over time, regardless of who

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June 2010 Candidate Messages

In accordance with the Osage News Election policy, the Osage News is allowing each candidate 200 words in every issue leading up to the June 2010 election. To read more messages from the candidates, visit www.osagenews.org.

**JOHN D. RED EAGLE**
Candidate for Principal Chief

I want to take this opportunity to introduce you to my web site which is www.johnredeagle.com. The Osage Nation government is currently facing major lawsuits and some unnecessary lawsuits, providing services for our Osage people, and looking for business ventures to help diversify our current resources. In the coming days our people will be voting whom they want to lead them in these government endeavors. I believe our government at this time will need leaders who have foresight not only in the culture of the Osages, but also in health care, business economic development, protection of mineral estate and the shareholders who benefit from the minerals of the Osage Nation, experience in the present Osage government, a definite vision for the education for our Osage youths and a focus on health care for all Osages. These are just a few issues that are facing us today. We are in need of a leader with integrity and an ability to work with other elected officials to achieve productive results. I am asking you for your vote for Principal Chief of the Osage Nation and thanking you in advance.

–By John D. Red Eagle

**ROY ST. JOHN**
Candidate for Principal Chief

I see the Nation as a growing bureaucracy with expenses soon to exceed the income. The executive branch seems to think layers of management will fix problems. The plan is to have an added layer between Department Directors and the Executive Office called Divisions. This layer will come with additional staff, equipment and space requirements. Dollars spent on this ever growing governmental bureaucracy will result in fewer services available to the citizens.

In this time of economic uncertainty we need to operate our government as efficiently as possible. I plan to consolidate departments and eliminate overhead to bring about a more efficient delivery of services to the citizens.

–By Roy St. John

**TIM TALL CHIEF**
Candidate for Principal Chief

“Proven Leadership” is verifiable as demonstrated success in leadership positions. As a current member of the Osage Nation Health and Wellness Advisory Board, I provide expert advice to the Executive Branch and Congress on issues relevant to the health needs of our Osage people in Oklahoma and throughout the United States. I recently retired as Deputy Commissioner of Administration for the Oklahoma State Department of Health, where my responsibilities included administrative oversight of a $370 million annual budget for an agency of 2300 employees with facilities and clinics in 70 Oklahoma counties. Governor Frank Keating appointed me to the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission, where I served eight years as Chairman of the Board. Prior to joining the Oklahoma State Department of Health, I served as the State Director of Indian Education with the Oklahoma State Department of Education. Among the numerous other boards and committees on which I have served, I am particularly honored to have been a member of our Osage E-Lon-Shka ceremonial for the past 30 years, and to have been invited to serve as a committeeman for the Greyhorse District. I believe

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**Letters to the Editor Submissions**

If you’d like to submit a letter to the editor, mail it to the Osage News, Attn.: Shannon Shaw, 627 Grandview, Pawhuska, OK 74056; email sshaw@osagenews.org, or fax to (918) 287-5563. Letters must be respectful and informative to the reader, and may be edited for grammar, clarity and space.
that the Osage Nation deserves “Proven Leadership” in its elected Chief, and I would be honored to serve in this leadership positions for the Osage Nation and our people.

–By Tim Tall Chief

Cecelia Tallchief
Candidate for Assistant Principal Chief

As a new year begins, I believe it’s important to reflect on current opportunities that exist for the Osage Nation. The Osage Nation is on the brink of achieving great things for all of its citizens, specifically with regards to healthcare. The Osage Nation Health and Wellness board has been working diligently towards creating a new healthcare delivery system for the Osage people. As a member of the board, I have vigorously voiced my concern about services that are not being provided and inadequate facilities. These concerns are not only mine, but also the concerns of countless Osage Nation citizens that I visit with on a daily basis. Current facilities are undersized and service offerings are minimal at best. The board is working to evaluate the financial and organizational effectiveness of the current system. Once the evaluation is complete, we will know exactly how to move forward to incorporate expanded facilities and services. One component of the evaluation will be to hold community meetings to better understand the needs and desires of our citizens. As always, I will do my best to keep you informed about the community meetings and other important issues.

–By Cecelia Tallchief

Jake Heflin
Candidate for Osage Nation Congress

An important function of government is to develop and provide education for its citizens. “Knowledge is power.” I am in full support of educational assistance programs for Osage students, regardless of age.

Educational needs of students vary. Some students desire vocational education while others may choose to pursue a degree from a college or a university. The goal is to promote education.

Financial support for our students should be available regardless of what accredited institution a student decides to attend. Education costs vary from student to student and from school to school. Investing in our students is an investment in the future of our Nation and the quality of life for our citizens.

Our Osage people are strong and resilient. History has shown this. Education makes us stronger. An educated person brings tools that enable our Nation to grow and develop. Creating a mechanism that supports our students and encourages service back to the Tribe upon their graduation, provides all involved parties with a viable and achievable opportunity. We must look to the future and create a government that finds solutions and seeks the input of their constituents. We must strive for a government that empowers and helps all Osages realize their full potential.

For additional information please visit www.Osagevision.org.

–By Jake Heflin

Jenny Miller
Candidate for Osage Nation Congress

In 3 1/2 months you’ll mark your ballot for candidates of whom you believe to be honorable enough to carry out the “Will of the People.” Facts before us today and those that have accumulated over these past 4 to 8 years must not be ignored.

Records indicate that most if not all of the Judicial are in alliance with the Executive as are 1/2 (6) Congress members.

Let there be no doubt that this current loyalty pact was planned and put into place well before the 2006 election and let there be no doubt that these same tactics are being practiced once again in 2010.

The most dangerous voter is the uninformed voter. Resolve to take up your spear for the sake of our tribe. Resolve to make every effort to see the documented facts.

A government is only as good as the people it represents. This administration is counting on you to remain silent, voice no opinion and “follow the leader.” I’m counting on you to accept this NEW DAY in Osage government affairs and help stop the madness by becoming informed.

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JUNE 2010 CANDIDATES MESSAGES

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—By Jenny Miller

RAYMOND RED CORN
Candidate for Osage Nation Congress

When the Osage people voted for this new government, many hoped for a new day in Osage politics. Few anticipated the time and treasure that would be spent on attorneys, and on inter-branch litigation.

Some of that litigation has been necessary, like the suit over the Independent Press Act and the Office of Fiscal and Performance Review. Other ongoing litigation has little merit, but remains outrageously expensive. Consider one battle over the membership list, which has cost the Congress alone $35,863, with the end nowhere in sight.

Just last week the Congress voted 6-3 to explore new litigation over two Executive branch actions that have already been remedied or reversed by legislation. I oppose this new litigation based on two facts; passed legislation has made the Executive actions moot, and the Osage Supreme Court says to have standing one must be an injured party. When legislation has reversed the wrong, Congress is no longer an injured party.

The Osage people want this government to deliver a healthy, prosperous future. That’s a difficult task if we are consumed with unnecessary court battles over constitutional boundaries. If re-elected, I pledge continued opposition to unnecessary and unwarranted litigation between branches of government.

—By Raymond Red Corn

MYRON RED EAGLE
Candidate for Osage Mineral Council

I do not believe there is a more critical time in the history of our Osage Nation than now. The preservation of our mineral estate is vital to our shareholders. And the 1906 Congressional Act is never more important for our people to rely upon as a foundation than now. I will put forward my best efforts to preserve and protect our mineral estate for the welfare of our mineral shareholders.

—By Myron Red Eagle
Maximize your payout.

The Osage Million Dollar Elm Guest Rewards card is our way of recognizing our most dedicated players. Membership is FREE and it’s easy to join. Just visit our Players Club to sign up and start receiving your valuable benefits. Now you can use just ONE card at all SEVEN of our locations. Playing with your card enters you into exciting promotions. You’ll also receive special invitations to events, parties and tournaments based on qualified play. The more you play, the more rewards you receive!

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